



**Comments on the draft RSPG Opinion on
„EU Spectrum Policy Implications of the Digital Dividend“**

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DER
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Response of the Directors' Conference of the State Media Authorities (Direktorenkonferenz der Landesmedienanstalten - DLM) in Germany to the public consultation on the draft RSPG Opinion on „EU Spectrum Policy Implications of the Digital Dividend“.

1. The DLM supports the view expressed in the draft opinion, that the digital dividend is the spectrum made available over and above that required to accommodate the existing analogue television services. Possible forms of use include broadcasting, multimedia services and electronic communications.
2. Digital switchover in Germany started in 2003 and it is meant to be completed by late 2008/early 2009. The DLM suggests using the digital dividend both for enhancing broadcasting and for high field strength downlink services. The transmission system for these services in the UHF-band will be DVB-H. When the spectrum demand of these services is met, the remaining spectrum in VHF and UHF could be used for uplinks for fixed/mobile services. This could be the case especially in scarcely populated areas.
3. We stress the opinion, that the introduction of new services can not be allowed to conflict with cultural diversity and media pluralism. Furthermore, the spectrum requirements of new services can not be allowed to adversely affect the transmission of local and regional broadcasting services.
4. In Germany there are long term licences for digital broadcasting. We know, however, that at least one additional layer can be made available for high field strength downlink services in the UHF-band. This service is planned to start in densely populated areas by the end of 2007.
5. Due to the fact that the digital switchover is in progress in Germany and a high field strength service is meant to start by the end of 2007, any study dealing with the constraints on frequency planning should be completed and the results published in the second quarter of 2007, at the latest.
6. We agree that no action is necessary at EU-level concerning the band 174 – 230 MHz.
7. We agree that in the band 470 – 862 MHz there are benefits to the use of the digital dividend by broadcasting services. They should be complemented by high field strength downlink services. We expect that in Germany there will be one, perhaps eventually two layers used for the latter services.

8. We support the idea of seeking an additional allocation to the fixed/mobile service (incl. uplink) in the *entire* UHF-band (300 – 3000 MHz) under the condition, that broadcasting services and licensed high field strength downlink services are not adversely impacted. It remains to be seen if a contiguous sub-band, especially in the range of 470 – 862 MHz, can be identified. In Germany, several long term licences have been granted to broadcasting services. A licence to a high field strength downlink service is expected to be granted later in 2007. Gaps in layers granted to existing services are not acceptable. Replanning activities to fill these gaps will probably require the redesign of existing networks. This will result in a modification and/or change of hardware at running transmitter sites. The problem of who will compensate for the associated costs needs to be solved.
9. We agree that there would be considerable EU-wide benefits to the use of more advanced television coding systems (such as MPEG-4). The same holds true for the use of advanced audio coding systems. We support the introduction of these systems. This introduction, however, must be done in a manner compatible with the market. All current DAB-receivers and most receivers for DVB-T do not support advanced source-coding systems. Therefore, an immediate and complete switch-over to new coding systems is not possible. In a transition period, old and new systems should run in parallel. In particular, new broadcasting services in the band 174 – 230 MHz should use new source coding systems, whereas currently running services should maintain their current system during the transition period.
10. In the event of an ITU/ European identification of a sub-band of the UHF-band for fixed/mobile applications (including uplinks), we support the idea of a conference in the timeframe 2010-2012 in order to plan the use of the remaining part of the UHF band allocated to broadcasting only. A conference seems to be the best way to ensure fair and equitable access to the spectrum. As done prior to RRC-06, bilateral/multi-lateral coordination will allow for the continuous extension of existing digital networks before such a conference takes place.