

# Statement of the German-Austrian microphone manufacturers working group to

## *„Draft RSPG Opinion #5*

### *The Introduction of Multimedia Services in particular in the frequency bands allocated to the broadcasting services”*

(05-11-2006)

#### **Introduction**

In the run-up to WRC07 and WRC10, numerous concepts regarding the wireless transmission of multimedia content are currently being discussed. The preparing groups are expecting new and fast growing markets in this area and have formulated (and will formulate) their frequency requirements; in particular as regards frequency band allocations and usable bandwidth.

#### **Who are we?**

The Working Group of German and Austrian Microphone Manufacturers is an EU wide operating group dealing with issues regarding the use of professional RF wireless equipment in audio productions. Our solutions often become part of international standards, and such updated standards are also the basis for new decisions on frequency allocations.

#### **Reason for this input paper**

Adding to the excellent work of the concept owner and the concept groups we would like to draw your particular attention to the production chain for multimedia events and the equipment it requires.

Almost all of these events are produced using professional video and audio equipment, with wireless microphones and talkback systems (IEM) being the basic technologies and a prerequisite for these productions. However, their use requires that large, high-quality frequency resources are readily available.

As manufacturers of professional equipment for commercial audio productions we can look back on a vast experience in RF wireless research & development and also the optimum use of the currently available frequency resources. We can assure you that, at the present moment, there is no technology which would make it possible to reduce the required frequency spectrum or switch to frequency bands other than UHF. On the contrary, the amount of RF wireless equipment used for professional audio productions has been growing for decades, with increasing demands being made on audio quality and transmission reliability. We are witnessing a growing market importance of wireless microphone systems and wireless monitoring systems.

#### **What is causing problems at the moment?**

Based on the Stockholm and Chester Agreements, wireless microphones and similar technologies have existed for decades as secondary users in the allocated broadcast bands, in the very interest of the broadcast companies and their audience. Almost unseen by the TV viewers, wireless microphones have done an excellent job, bringing spectacular concerts, shows, and events onto the screen. There are millions of wireless microphones worldwide – without them, many popular events and shows would not even have been possible. Everywhere, the trend is towards more and more wireless microphones, and this trend cannot be reversed.

With the continuing digitalisation and simultaneous changes in TV broadcasting this successful frequency sharing on a secondary basis is endangered and will need to be adapted or replaced in the foreseeable future.

### **Our request**

Please consider all elements of the AV production chain and their operating requirements in your planning activities for the wireless transmission of multimedia contents. Be aware of the negative consequences for multimedia productions should the required frequency resources no longer be available in (at the very least) the present amount and quality.

We kindly offer our experience and resources to assist and support you in your planning activities should the need arise.

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