techUK

techuk.org | @techUK | #techUK

techUK response to Public consultation on the Draft RSPG Opinion on spectrum related aspects for next-generation wireless systems (5G)

July 2016

10 St Bride Street
London
EC4A 4AD

T 020 7331 2000
F 020 7331 2040
www.techuk.org

techUK | Representing the future

Contact: Raj Sivalingam | Technical Programme Manager
T 020 7331 2019
E Raj.Sivalingam@techuk.org

Introduction

About techUK

As the trade association for the (digital) technology industries in the UK, techUK represents the companies and technologies that are helping to define today the world that we will live in tomorrow. In a very real sense techUK represents the future.

At the heart of tech in the UK is an ecosystem of 270,000 companies producing digital technologies, products and services right across the economy from healthcare and transport to telecommunications and entertainment to defence, secoruty and public sector services. From east to west, north and south, from enterprise class organisations to established medium-sized businesses, growing small businesses and an exciting generation of tech start-ups: the UK is a hotbed of tech talent and techUK exists to represent the sector in its entirety.

Our role as techUK is to ensure that we seize the potential for good and address the disruptive new challenges that change and innovation always present. We work to understand the opportunities that technology provides; to support the companies and innovators that can realise those opportunities.

This underpins our simple vision to ensure that tech is good for the UK, the UK is good for tech and that tech is good for people.

techUK response to the consultation questions

techUK is pleased to comment on the RSPG Draft opinion and provides the following points for consideration by the RSPG:

- techUK recognises and supports the importance and urgency that the RSPG is attaching to the 5G radio spectrum discussion and the need for an early indication of the European 5G spectrum roadmap. The early development of this draft Opinion is an essential first step.
- techUK supports the recognition the RSPG gives to the part that the lower frequencies (i.e. 700MHz and 3400-3800MHz) will likely play in supporting some 5G capabilities, but their prioritisation should not reduce the momentum on identifying and securing higher frequency spectrum. If 5G is to offer the step change in functionality which investment is predicated on exploiting, then 5G will need access to higher spectrum as well as lower spectrum.
- techUK agrees that the 3400-3800MHz band is attractive as a stepping stone for the introduction of 5G services. But this may only partially place Europe in a forefront position noting that some other regions are pushing ahead faster in providing a framework for developing the higher frequency component of 5G as well.
- Full 5G capability will only be realisable once the full suite of spectrum bands is available including the nearer term lower frequencies as well as the longer term higher frequency bands including new bands above 24GHz.
- Whilst technology trials are an important element in developing the future 5G environment, it is equally important to show potential customers what they can

expect from 5G system performance. It will be important to engage new industries and stakeholders who may not have previously considered public mobile networks as a solution to their industry telecommunications needs. techUK is particularly supportive of the 5G initiatives being considered for the industry verticals in this respect and therefore encourages the use of higher frequency technology (perhaps in pre-commercial trials) as soon as possible.

- To help achieve this, RSPG should carefully consider the roadmap for higher frequencies with regard to technology availability sooner in some frequency ranges compared to others including any developments in this respect driven by other regions.
- Early harmonisation ahead of the WRC process could be risky until a clearer picture emerges of the cross regional support for certain frequency ranges and the expected spectrum needs or 5G services as they mature.