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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

10th Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on Peer review and Member State cooperation on authorisations and awards

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on Peer review and Member State cooperation
on authorisations and awards**

RSPG at its Meeting #48 (Brussels, 30th January 2019) approved the 9th Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group (RSPG19-011) on Peer review and Member State cooperation on authorisations and awards.

I. PEER REVIEW

The RSPG launched in 2016, a voluntary Peer Review Platform allowing Member States experts to share documents on past, ongoing and future awards and experiences to seek advice from their Peers during the award design process.

II. MEMBER STATE COOPERATION ON AUTHORISATIONS AND AWARDS

The main activity of the group is to facilitate cooperation between RSPG Members by arranging Peer Review workshops to share best practice in spectrum awards and authorisation. The workshops, run by relevant authorities in Member States responsible, make it possible to exchange their experiences of practice and knowledge on their specific spectrum award approach.

The value of this close cooperation between Member States is a key element for the future utilisation of the Peer Review mechanism. The goal of sharing information, knowledge and best practice will assist RSPG Members in delivering the highest quality of award procedures, ensuring the ability of Member States to adapt to national circumstances and take into account different geographical characteristics, market situations, different usage scenarios whilst ensuring that spectrum is well utilized and that future speed, capacity and coverage requirements are met.

1. Since the last RSPG Plenary there has been three Peer Review Workshops reflecting the current high levels of preparation in Member States for ensuring spectrum for 5G is available to the market.

a) Joint Workshop on Sweden 700 MHz Award & UK 700 MHz/3.6-3.8 GHz - London February 2019

Representatives of PTS shared with the group, information on the conduct of their 700 MHz Award. Their presentation dealt first with the design of the award (open invitation) allowing colleagues to question the approach on a variety of highly topical issues for all Member States in the auction design for this band including; lots in the auction, licence duration and reserve prices, overall spectrum caps and the approach

to coverage in rural areas. Moving on to the results of the award, PTS explained the results including fees charged, how the coverage obligations and roll out plan obligations will work and finally highly relevant competition aspects of the auction design, including infrastructure sharing.

The Workshop allowed for discussion with the UK Auction team on their forthcoming 700 MHz and 3.6-3.8 GHz award including the context in the UK for the planning of this award. This was useful to the team who were able to run through some ideas on competition and coverage considerations in the context of the planned auction format.

**b) Joint Workshop on 2.3 GHz/3.4-3.8 GHz (Finland, Sweden, Austria) - Stockholm
April 2019**

The aim of the workshops organized by the Swedish regulator within the Peer Review RSPG group was to get acquainted with the preparations, the course and results of the auction for the 3400-3800 MHz band in Finland and Sweden. The meeting was well attended by 26 representatives from the following countries: Sweden, Finland, Germany, Greece, Austria, Slovenia, France, Portugal, Norway, Slovakia, Poland, Denmark and the European Commission.

Representatives of the Finnish regulator in the first phase of the workshop outlined the situation of the Finnish market in the area of telecommunications and presented details from the auction for the 3410-3800 MHz band. Representatives of PTS presented detailed information on the preparations for the selection procedure of ranges: 2300-2380 MHz and 3400-3700 MHz. As part of the workshop, Austria summarized the auction for radio spectrum resources in the 3410-3800 MHz band.

**c) Joint Workshop from Austria & UK
Austria - Multi-Band (700/1500/2100 MHz) & 3.4-3.8 GHz Awards
UK - Update post consultation on forthcoming 700MHz/3.6 – 3.8 GHz Award
Vienna May 2019**

Austria presented an overview of the legal background in Austria for context before moving onto presenting an overview of the multi band award (700/1500/2100 MHz) including details of the overall objectives of the award, band plans and design issues. This discussion with peers concerned such issues as technical usage conditions, coverage objectives and obligations, competition measures and product and auction design.

Moving on to the recently concluded 3400-3800 MHz award, the group were updated with details of the information presented in Stockholm including further information on the technical usage conditions and issues on synchronisation for 4G/5G as well as discussion of the process of the auction.

The UK provided an update of the UK's current auction plans for 700 MHz and 3.6-3.8 GHz provided in London in February since the public consultation had closed.

III. FURTHER ACTIONS

RSPG Peers have shared the view that they can obtain the best value out of Peer Reviews through the frank, informal and confidential exchange of views between peers; being able to discuss and debate the complex issues underpinning spectrum awards in a confidential environment. The possibility of further obtaining answers to questions with peers at times other than the event was also highlighted. The rapporteurs request that national experts maintain their correct contact details on the platform. This has worked well thus far, and we are keen to ensure this good practice continues so that Peer Reviews may continue to thrive.

Several member states have already contacted the rapporteurs with a view to holding a further peer review meeting this year, diaries permitting with Member States in planning for WRC19. Any other updates from RSPG members regarding upcoming awards and their plans to share with peers on their award plans are most welcome.

Rapporteurs:

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