



18th August 2009

For more information, contact:
Chair, Regulatory Working Group
rwg-chair@wimaxforum.org

To: FICORA

E-Mail: kirjaamo@ficora.fi

Ref: Ficora 60 Draft

2500-2690 MHZ SPECTRUM AUCTION.

WiMAX Forum[®] Response

The WiMAX Forum[®] welcomes the opportunity to provide its views and comments concerning the public consultation identified above.

The WiMAX Forum is an industry-led, not-for-profit organisation formed to certify and promote the compatibility and interoperability of broadband wireless products based upon the harmonized IEEE 802.16/ETSI HiperMAN standard. A WiMAX Forum goal is to accelerate the introduction of these systems into the marketplace. WiMAX Forum Certified[™] products are interoperable and support broadband fixed, portable and mobile services. Along these lines, the WiMAX Forum works closely with service providers and regulators to ensure that WiMAX Forum Certified systems meet customer and government requirements. For more information about the WiMAX Forum and its activities, please visit www.WiMAXForum.org.

In Annex 1, the WiMAX Forum is pleased to submit comments on the consultation document identified above.

Yours Sincerely

Tim Hewitt
WiMAX Forum
Chair - Regulatory Working Group

¹ "WiMAX," "Mobile WiMAX," "Fixed WiMAX," "WiMAX Forum," the WiMAX Forum logo, "WiMAX Forum Certified," and the WiMAX Forum Certified logo are trademarks of the WiMAX Forum.

Annex 1

Ref: <http://www.ficora.fi/en/index/palvelut/palvelutaiheittain/radiotaajuudet/huutokauppa.html>

"FICORA has issued a draft regulation on auction rules and technical conditions of the radio license. Interested parties are invited to give their views on the draft measures. Written contributions must be submitted no later than 14 August 2009."

The WiMAX Forum has developed the following observations on the draft 2.6GHz licensing documents available on the web page above:

Referring specifically to the 2500-2570 paired with 2620 - 2690MHz licence conditions:

The WiMAX Forum notes that the draft conditions facilitate flexibility allowing TDD use in the "FDD parts" of the band. This is considered important since the auction arrangements appear to limit the number of TDD block licence holders to one.

However the WiMAX Forum further observes that neither the technical licence document nor the draft award processes implement the possibility to increase the TDD spectrum in a manner consistent with the EC Decision 2008/477/EC². The annex of the Decision identifies a template for extending the TDD spectrum in a manner that maximises the spectrum utilisation efficiency (minimising the restricted blocks and FDD/TDD adjacencies) and enables market mechanisms to determine the appropriate FDD/TDD split within the band.

The WiMAX Forum believes that this market mechanism is absent in the proposed auction and that the award procedures are based around the rigid band arrangements in ECC Decision (05)05 which pre-date the EC Decision 2008/477/EC and are not supported by the WiMAX Forum. Therefore the WiMAX Forum has the impression that the authorities have already determined that FDD/TDD flexibility is not desired in this band in Finland. This appears to the WiMAX Forum to be contrary to the European Commission policy goals for more flexible use of the radio spectrum.

The WiMAX Forum does not consider the issue of restricted or guard band provision has been adequately addressed. The auction design suggests that this is the sole responsibility of the TDD licensee. The mitigation of interference between licence blocks is a shared responsibility and therefore the restricted blocks should be offered as independent blocks in the auction. The restricted usage of the blocks would suggest that there is less value compared to the unrestricted blocks. Should no bids be received then the necessary blocks assigned as restricted would remain unallocated and would serve as guard blocks instead.

In addition:

- The WiMAX Forum believes that further Information point 4 should refer to Base Station emissions only.

² Fully supported by the WiMAX Forum: See <http://www.wimaxforum.org/node/439>

- In the section relating to TDD use in this licence (Annex 2), only the frequency range 26xx-26yy MHz is referenced in points 3 and 4 which is the upper sub-band only. This implies no TDD operation in the lower sub-band.
- In Annex 2, point 6, there is no indication which licence holder should implement a restricted block or unused 5MHz guard block.

The licence conditions suggest that there are geographical exclusion zones for part of the band. The WiMAX Forum would appreciate further clarification on the restricted use of the geographical zones. In particular does this imply that the current licensee (T&D and training purposes) has priority in the geographical zones regardless of whether they have service already established or not? Also do the least technical restrictive conditions as outlined in EC Decision 2008/477/EC apply to these geographical areas and for what duration do these restrictions apply?