

Spectrum Release Plan for 2018 – 2020 (Updated version as at 26 July 2018)

Introduction

In accordance with the Radio Spectrum Policy Framework announced by the Government in April 2007, the Communications Authority (“CA”) will publish a spectrum release plan (“SRP”) to inform the industry of the potential supply of radio spectrum for the following three years. The SRP is updated every year on a rolling basis, or as required, taking into account the latest developments. Details of the updated SRP for 2018 – 2020 are listed below. It includes potential supply of spectrum which may be made available through open bidding, tendering process or other appropriate means.

Updated Spectrum Release Plan for 2018 – 2020

Frequency Band (MHz)	Bandwidth (MHz)	Earliest Release Date ^[1]	Target Consultation Date	Remarks
890 – 915 935 – 960	50	2018 ^[2]	Completed ^[3]	Re-assignment of existing spectrum for the provision of mobile/wireless fixed services
1710 – 1785 1805 – 1880	150			
24250 – 27500 27500 – 28350	3250 850	2019	Q3 2018 ^[4]	Assignment of new spectrum for the provision of mobile/wireless fixed services
3300 – 3400	100			
4830 – 4930	100	2019	Q3 2018 ^[5]	Assignment of new spectrum for the provision of indoor mobile services
3400 – 3600	200	2019	Completed ^[6]	Assignment of new spectrum for the provision of mobile services starting from April 2020

Notes:

- [1] “Earliest release date” refers to the earliest date when the spectrum concerned is expected to be available for release to the market through auction, tendering or other appropriate means, subject to the outcome of consultation and enactment of the relevant subsidiary legislation. It does not necessarily refer to the actual date of spectrum assignment.
- [2] According to the decision of the CA announced on 19 December 2017 (see https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/429/ca_statements20171219_en.pdf), the right of first refusal for 80 MHz of spectrum in frequency bands 1720 – 1730 MHz, 1740 – 1770 MHz, 1815 – 1825 MHz and 1835 – 1865 MHz (“RFR Spectrum”) was offered to the incumbent spectrum assignees administratively in July 2018, while the auction of the remaining spectrum (together with any spectrum that may become available due to the decision of any incumbent spectrum assignee not to exercise their right of first refusal to take up the RFR Spectrum) will be conducted around end 2018.
- [3] Two rounds of public consultation were completed in 2016 and 2017 respectively.
- [4] The invitation for Expression of Interest was issued in December 2017 for submissions within six weeks. The public consultation on proposed allocation of the 26 GHz and 28 GHz bands to mobile service and the associated arrangements for spectrum assignment and spectrum utilisation fee was launched in July 2018.
- [5] The public consultation on the arrangements for spectrum allocation and assignment as well as spectrum utilisation fee will be conducted in Q3 2018.
- [6] The public consultation on spectrum re-allocation was completed in September 2017. The CA issued a statement in March 2018 promulgating its decision to change the allocation of radio spectrum in the 3.4 – 3.7 GHz band from fixed satellite service to mobile service for the provision of public mobile telecommunications services with effect from 1 April 2020. The public consultation on the arrangements for the spectrum assignment and related spectrum utilisation fee was conducted between May and June 2018.

Spectrum included in previous versions of Spectrum Release Plan

Frequency Band (MHz)	Bandwidth (MHz)	Remarks
216 – 223	7	Use of Channel 11C (219.584 – 221.120 MHz) for Digital Audio Broadcasting services has ceased since 4 September 2017. Channel 11A to 11D (within the range of 216 – 223 MHz) may be used for new digital broadcasting and telecommunications services, including broadcast-type mobile TV services.

Frequency Band (MHz)	Bandwidth (MHz)	Remarks
678 – 686 (UHF TV Channel No. 47)	8	This band was assigned through the auction of radio spectrum in the UHF band held in June 2010 for the provision of broadcast-type mobile TV services. On 30 April 2018, the CA accepted the spectrum assignee's application to surrender its relevant licence including the frequency assignment in this band for the provision of broadcast-type mobile TV services. This band is now vacant.
832.5 – 837.5 877.5 – 882.5	10	These bands were assigned through the auction of radio spectrum in the 850 MHz, 900 MHz and 2 GHz Bands held in February/March 2011 for the provision of public mobile telecommunications services.
885 – 890 930 – 935	10	These bands were assigned through the auction of radio spectrum in the 850 MHz, 900 MHz and 2 GHz Bands held in February/March 2011 for the provision of public mobile telecommunications services.
1466 – 1480	14	This band may be used for new digital broadcasting and telecommunications services, including broadcast-type mobile TV services. As a result of the second consultation on the development of mobile TV services which took place in January 2008, this band has been reserved subject to further development of the worldwide market.
1780.1 – 1785 1875.1 – 1880	9.8	These bands were assigned through the auction held in June 2009 for the provision of public mobile telecommunications services.
1904.9 – 1919.9 2019.7 – 2024.7	20	These bands were previously assigned to mobile network operators for the provision of 3G mobile services. The assignments expired on 21 October 2016. In accordance with the decision of the CA announced on 15 November 2013, ¹ these bands were put back to reserve following the expiry of the relevant assignments in October 2016.

¹ See http://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/237/ca_statements20131115_en.pdf.

Frequency Band (MHz)	Bandwidth (MHz)	Remarks
1930.2 – 1940.0 1960.0 – 1969.8 2120.2 – 2130.0 2150.0 – 2159.8	39.2	In accordance with the decision of the CA announced on 15 November 2013, ¹ these bands were planned to be released through auction towards end 2014 and were therefore included in previous SRP. Following the decision of the CA announced on 2 May 2014, ² the bands to be released through auction were revised to 1920.3 – 1935.1 MHz, 1960.0 – 1969.8 MHz, 2110.3 – 2125.1 MHz and 2150.0 – 2159.8 MHz instead (with a total bandwidth of 49.2 MHz). These revised bands were assigned through the auction held in December 2014 for the provision of public mobile telecommunications services.
2010 – 2019.7	9.7	This band was included in the auction of radio spectrum in the 850 MHz, 900 MHz and 2 GHz Bands held in February/March 2011 for the provision of public mobile telecommunications services but was not acquired by any bidder in the auction. The CA will review the demand for this band.
2300 – 2390	90	This band was assigned through the auction of spectrum for broadband wireless access service held in February 2012.
2500 – 2515 2620 – 2635	30	These bands were assigned through the auction of spectrum for broadband wireless access service held in January 2009.
2515 – 2540 2635 – 2660	50	These bands were assigned through the auction of spectrum for broadband wireless access service held in March 2013.
2540 – 2570 2660 – 2690	60	These bands were assigned through the auction of spectrum for broadband wireless access service held in January 2009.

This SRP is for information of the industry and the public. Publication of the SRP does not constitute any allocation or assignment of the spectrum. The SRP does not bind the CA in exercise of its discretion in the actual spectrum allocation and assignment. The CA will conduct separate consultation

² See http://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/270/decision_20140502_e.pdf.

exercises before exercising its powers under sections 32H(2)(a) and (b) and 32I(1) of the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap 106) as is reasonable in all the circumstances of the case. In making a decision on spectrum allocation and/or assignment, the CA will also take into account all relevant matters of the case. The CA is entitled to depart or deviate from the SRP where the circumstances so warrant. The SRP is subject to annual review and may from time to time be amended, as and when it is considered necessary in the light of latest developments.

Office of the Communications Authority
26 July 2018