

**EASTERN CARIBBEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY
(ECTEL)**

**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT
ECTEL Regional Spectrum Management Plan**

No.01/2021

1. The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission is in receipt of a submission from ECTEL containing the **ECTEL Regional Spectrum Management Plan** for its Member States.
2. A copy of the draft Regional Spectrum Management Plan is attached to this Consultative Document.
3. The initial comments period will run from **12th July 2021 to 6th August 2021**.
4. The Comment on Comments period will run from **16th August 2021 to 27th August 2021**.
5. Following the Reply Comments period, ECTEL's Directorate will revise and submit the draft ECTEL Regional Spectrum Management Plan to the Council of Ministers for its recommendation for adoption in the ECTEL Member States.
6. All responses to this Consultative Document should be written and sent by post, fax or e-mail to: -
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Disclaimer

This consultative document does not constitute legal, commercial or technical advice. The consultation is without prejudice to the legal position of ECTEL's duties to provide advice and recommendations to the Ministers with responsibility for electronic communications and the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commissions.

Revision of the ECTEL Regional Spectrum Management Plan

Brief Notes

The ECTEL Regional Spectrum Management Plan (“the Plan”) is a regional plan and divides the radio frequency spectrum of the ECTEL Member States into several frequency bands and designates the general purposes for which each radio frequency band may be utilized. The Plan is based on the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Region 2 Allocations. The ECTEL Regional Spectrum Management Plan was first published in 2006 and later revised in 2012. Therefore, there was a need to revise and update the Plan to ensure that it remains current and complies with the ITU Region 2 Radio Regulations.

LS Telcom Limited (“the Consultant”) was awarded the Consultancy to revise and update the Plan. Some of the key objectives of the assignment were as follows:

- To revise and update ECTEL’s Spectrum Management Policies, including the ECTEL Regional Spectrum Management Plan and Frequency Allocation Tables (FAT). Consideration should be given to emerging wireless technologies and services, to ensure that the radio frequency spectrum is utilized in the most efficient manner for both public and private purposes.
- To develop radio frequency band plans in keeping with the ITU’s Radio Regulations for Region 2, for the allocation, assignment and licensing of spectrum to reflect the latest evolution of wireless technologies.
- To develop frameworks to ensure that spectrum is made available for new technologies and services, and flexibility is preserved to adapt to new market needs.

The draft Plan is presented for the review and comments from all stakeholders. There are several proposals within the draft Plan relating to the reallocation of certain frequency bands to other radio communications services. There are questions on its proposed reallocation of certain frequency bands in the draft Plan and ECTEL looks forward to the responses to the questions.

Proposal for the Reallocation of Digital Audio Broadcast Service- ECTEL Footnote E.4

It is proposed that the frequency band 235 MHz -267 MHz no longer be identified for Digital Audio Broadcast service applications and in conformity with ITU Region 2, the frequency band 174 MHz to 240 MHz replace the frequency 235 MHz – 267 MHz for Digital Audio Broadcast applications.

Frequency Bands Identified for Broadband Wireless Access Applications- ECTEL Footnote E.10

ECTEL is proposing that frequency bands for Broadband Wireless Access Applications be revised to conform with the emerging international standards. The proposal is to revise the following frequency bands to align them with international standards:

- 698 MHz – 806 MHz;
- 2300 MHz – 2400 MHz;
- 2520 MHz – 2690 MHz; and
- 3 400 MHz – 3600 MHz.

Question 1: Are there any impediments to switching the frequency bands 2.5 GHz, 3.5 GHz 2.3 GHz bands from FDD to TDD? Please identify them.

Proposal to align ECTEL's 700MHz band plan to FCC Upper 700MHz band plan- ECTEL Footnote E.14

ECTEL is proposing a revision to allocate the D'-Block (758-763 MHz / 788-793 MHz) to Public Safety applications (Public Protection and Disaster Relief- PPDR) for nationwide emergency response broadband network; and PS Block for deploying and operating the nationwide public safety network. It is also proposed that the prospective licensee will hold be authorised to use both the existing public safety spectrum (763-769 MHz/793-799 MHz) and the reallocated D' Block.

Question 2: Would there be any difficulties to current licensed operators with the proposed changes in the intermediate term (0 to 3 years) or in the longer term (more than 3 years)?

Proposal to permit International Mobile Telecommunications applications in the Frequency Band 614 MHz to 698 MHz - ECTEL Footnote E.15

ECTEL is proposing that the frequency band 614 MHz to 698 MHz, or portions thereof, be identified for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) in keeping with Resolution 224¹ of the ITU Radio Regulations (WRC-19).

Question 3: Are there any opposition to the foot note E.15 i.e. identification of the frequency band 614 MHz to 698 MHz or portions of the band for IMT applications? If yes, please articulate the opposition.

¹ https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-r/oth/0C/0A/ROC0A00000F0074PDFE.pdf

Suggested Guidelines for Responses to Consultation

In order to reduce administrative lags in ECTEL's public consultation processes and to enable a reasonable degree of transparency by sharing of views submitted, ECTEL hereby recommends that parties desirous of making contributions to the attached consultation follow the procedures outlined below.

- 1) Responses to consultations should be clearly labeled as a response to the particular ECTEL consultation and correctly referenced by title.
- 2) Documents should contain; the Name of Party/Licensee/NTRC commenting, address, telephone, fax number and email contacts of commentary author or corporate officer(s) responsible for the document. This information will enable ECTEL to clarify any comments where necessary, or to facilitate follow-up dialog by ECTEL where required.
- 3) Where specific recommendations require it, commenting parties should indicate clearly via a "Yes" or "No" response, whether they concur or disagree with the recommendation and provide explanations/reasons for each response.
- 4) Where parties have no view or interest in expressing a view on a specific recommendation, parties should indicate "no comment" and number appropriately.
- 5) Responses/comments to specific recommendations should be double spaced and numbered in sequence with the recommendation. Where comments are extensive, paragraphs should be numbered. Pages should be numbered.
- 6) Commenting parties should avoid making comments in the form of tracked changes to consultation documents.
- 7) Where possible, comment documents should be submitted in PDF format.
- 8) Where possible, parties should make explicit reference to academic articles, legislative provisions in other jurisdictions, or other sources relied on, and should provide copies of these together with comments. Accurate citations of resources relied on will suffice if copies cannot be provided.
- 9) If relevant, parties commenting on specific provisions of legal language should propose alternative language where possible. Such language should be appropriately highlighted and double spaced. Parties should avoid proposing alternative language in tracked changes to the consultation document.
- 10) Comments may be submitted via letter, e-mail or fax, but should be submitted via one method only. Only comments submitted via e-mail may be acknowledged.
- 11) Commenting parties should expressly indicate or highlight which parts of comment documents contain commercially sensitive or confidential information that should not be published.

ECTEL reserves the right to publish all the responses received to the consultation and provides no undertakings to refuse to publish such comments where requested, on its website or otherwise.

ECTEL is grateful to those parties adopting the recommended guidelines for submitting comments to this consultation.

Draft ECTEL Regional Spectrum Management Plan