NRA’s role in harmonisation and co-ordination

Chris Woolford
Director, International Spectrum Policy
3 March 2011
Content

Current priorities for NRAs

• Spectrum for wireless broadband

• Spectrum clearance and upcoming spectrum awards

The longer term

• Getting the European regulatory framework right across all spectrum

• Tools available to NRAs

• Spectrum harmonisation and authorisation
Spectrum priorities in support of wireless broadband

- Spectrum clearance and awards programme
  - Especially 800 MHz and 2.6 GHz
  - Timely release of these bands across Europe is essential
  - European decisions (through Radio Spectrum Committee) play key role
  - UK welcomes the inclusion of deadlines in the RSPP

- Complex issues do however need to be resolved before this spectrum can be used
  - Completion of digital switchover throughout the UK
  - Clearance of DTT and PMSE from 790-862 MHz
  - Protection of DTT below 790 MHz
  - Risk of interference to Emergency Services, Short Range Devices
  - Radar mitigation at 2.7 GHz
  - International co-ordination
Spectrum awards in the UK

800 MHz and 2.6 GHz

• Ofcom expecting to publish consultation later this month, including:
  – Assessment of future competition in the mobile sector
  – Proposals for a combined award of 800 MHz and 2.6 GHz
  – Consideration of any need for coverage/roll-out or other obligations

• Auction itself expected to take place in first half of 2012

• Spectrum will start to become available from beginning 2013
  – Expect it to be available almost everywhere by end 2013

Other awards

• Ofcom also considering award of spectrum at 600 MHz and of geographic interleaved spectrum
More generally.....
Getting the European regulatory framework right

- A framework which incentivises efficient use of spectrum and promotes innovation and competition
  - Deliver flexibility (technology and service neutrality) and harmonisation where appropriate
  - Mechanisms to facilitate spectrum trading
  - Establish a functioning market for spectrum in Europe

- Understanding of future spectrum demand
  - Is more spectrum for mobile broadband required? If so where from?
    - Should we have a future Agenda Item on this issue at WRC – if we do, need to ensure Europe is well co-ordinated

- Promoting greater efficiency in public sector use of spectrum
  - Public sector spectrum holdings key to finding 500 MHz of spectrum identified by UK Government
  - A European spectrum inventory could be significant
What are the tools available to NRAs?

- Trading
  - Processes?
  - Leasing?

- Liberalisation
  - To what extent?
  - Licence exemption

- Auctions
  - Design?
  - Broader social value?
  - Public-sector participation?

- Pricing
  - Promotes efficient use of spectrum
  - Necessary if all the above?
  - How to calculate?
  - Public sector spectrum

- Security of tenure
  - Tension with flexibility?
  - Benefits of harmonisation

- Information
  - Inventory?
  - Confidentiality?
Spectrum harmonisation and the authorisation framework

• European harmonisation can deliver significant benefits for industry and consumers
  – Economies of scale, interoperability, greater regulatory certainty, more efficient use of spectrum

• But harmonisation of the wrong kind can lead to inefficient use of spectrum

• Harmonisation should be:
  – Justified
  – Sufficiently flexible (technology and service neutrality)
  – Focused on the technical conditions under which spectrum is made available

• Member States generally best placed to determine the non-technical conditions that should be attached to spectrum to meet national needs
  – Mobile Satellite Systems at 2 GHz has been an exception but remains to be seen how successful this will be