

18th January 2019

Public Notice: Request for the Assignment of High Demand Spectrum

On 9th November 2018, the Regulatory Authority of Bermuda (the “Authority”) received a formal request for high-demand spectrum from TeleBermuda International Limited (“TBI”) requesting the assignment of spectrum bands 3600 MHz to 3700MHz (the “Requested Frequencies”).

In accordance with the Minister’s Spectrum Policy dated September 22, 2014, the Authority is canvassing the electronic communications sector to determine demand associated with High Demand Spectrum (“HDS”) frequencies 3600 MHz to 3700MHz. If interested, sectoral providers have until 1st February, which is two weeks from the date of the publication of this public notice (the “Notice Period”), to provide a formal written statement expressing their genuine interest in spectrum situated within HDS frequencies 3600 MHz to 3700MHz (100 MHz block) to the Authority, as set forth below.

Upon completion of the Notice Period, the Authority intends to proceed with the assignment of the Requested Frequencies. If the Authority determines that demand is less than or equal to supply for the Requested Frequencies, the Authority will proceed with assignment on a First Come First Served basis (“FCFS”). However, if the Authority determines that demand for the Requested Frequencies is greater than or equal to supply, the Authority will commence a Comparative Selection Process and publicly issue a Request for Applications (“RFA”) to all sectoral providers. The Authority would then evaluate each application received against the following criteria:

- a) Local presence in Bermuda – Applicants must either have or make a durable commitment to maintain a presence in Bermuda.
- b) Eligibility to hold a licence under Bermuda law.
- c) Spectrum Management Objectives – The applicant must provide details regarding the intended electronic communications services, quality of coverage specifications and pricing. Assessment criteria includes include utilization of existing spectrum assignments (in particular, sub 1-GHz assignments), access to new technologies, the ability to provide enhanced services, reduction in prices and increased competition.
- d) Financial – The applicant must demonstrate that it has the necessary financial resources to provide the retail services and meet all roll-out and other commitments contained in the Licence.
- e) Technical – The applicant must submit sound technical planning for coverage and service provisions using the requested spectrum and demonstrate that it has the technical resources and expertise to implement it.
- f) Spectral Efficiency – The applicant would be required to justify the quantity of spectrum for which it is applying.

- g) Other – The applicant must demonstrate the receipt of the request spectrum will promote Bermudian ownership and Bermudian employment at all levels of the electronic communications sector, improve competition in the electronic communications and whether the applicant will position Bermuda to better compete in the international business and global tourism markets.

Any interested parties should contact the Authority's Chief Technical Officer by email at mwells@rab.bm.