



# New Methods for Radio Frequency Spectrum Management: Spectrum Trading

With the Regulation for the Transfer of Rights of Use of Radio Frequencies (Government Gazette 638/B/27-4-2007) EETT set the foundation for the implementation of spectrum trading in a clear and organized method for the first time in Greece. The term "spectrum trading" is used to describe the process of transfer of Radio Frequency Rights of Use between interested parties in a secondary market.

The main reasons for the implementation of spectrum trading, as well as market tools in general, in the management of radio frequency spectrum are: Lack of available spectrum to meet the ever increasing demand, rapid development of new technologies and inflexibility of traditional spectrum management methods in the way they handle the requirements of providers of electronic communication services and networks on one hand and innovation on the other.

Through spectrum trading, it is anticipated that as time goes by, the Rights of Use of Radio Frequencies will end up to those who value them the most. This will result in the efficient use of this scarce resource and the maximization of the profit for the national economy. Spectrum trading is estimated to bring significant benefits to the end user as well:

- Reduction of Prices of Wireless Communication Services.
- Greater Variety in the Telecommunication Services Offered.
- Increase of Innovative Services.

Despite the anticipated benefits, the introduction of spectrum trading comprises potential risks at the same time, such as obstruction of competition, increase of probability of occurrence of harmful interference and protection of critical services (e.g. public protection, disaster recovery, safety, protection of life, etc.). The reduction of possible risks may be ensured by careful planning of the pertinent spectrum trading regulations, while at the same time acknowledging that spectrum trading is only one of the available spectrum management tools.

Spectrum trading has already been implemented in the USA, Australia and many other European countries, including the United Kingdom. On a European Union level, the significant benefits that spectrum trading could bring in conjunction with other radio frequency spectrum management tools in the development of electronic communication networks and services in Europe, have already been identified. To this effect, the European Commission promotes the coordinated course of all member states towards this direction.

Spectrum trading may be realized in various different ways. To begin with, trading may be distinguished into complete transfer or simple lease of Radio Frequency Rights of Use. Also, a Radio Frequency Right of Use may be transferred or leased either entirely or in parts. The partial transfer may either be geographical (within a subregion of the original geographic area), or spectral (i.e. part of the radio frequency band of the original right), or temporal (certain defined time periods of a day or a week), or combination of the above.

The Regulation for the Transfer of Rights of Use of Radio Frequencies that was issued by EETT concerns the transfer or lease of Radio Frequency Rights of Use in whole (no partial transfers is provided for). The Regulation states the terms and conditions, so that rights of use may be transferred or leased, and specifies the procedure and the required supporting documents.

At the same time, EETT has submitted to the Ministry of Transport and Communications a relative Regulation concerning the partial transfer and/or lease of Rights of Use of Radio Frequencies.



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