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## 3.5GHz Broadband Wireless Access licensing

### Views of the WiMAX Forum™

#### Introduction

The WiMAX Forum has noted the current proposals in Greece concerning new licences in the 3.5GHz band and would like to take this opportunity to express some views to the EETT on the WiMAX Forum vision for the 3.5GHz band generally.

The WiMAX Forum is an industry-led, non-profit corporation formed to promote and certify the compatibility and interoperability of broadband wireless products using the IEEE 802.16 and ETSI HiperMAN wireless MAN specifications. The forum's goal is to accelerate the introduction of these devices into the marketplace. WiMAX Forum Certified™ products will be fully interoperable and support Metropolitan Broadband Fixed and Portable Applications. For more information about the WiMAX Forum and its activities, please visit [www.WiMAXForum.org](http://www.WiMAXForum.org).

#### Certification Profiles

Currently the WiMAX Forum has defined certification profiles for wireless access equipment for the 3400-3600MHz frequency range. These profiles support channel widths of both 3.5MHz and 7MHz. In addition they support equally both FDD and TDD operation. Recently, equipment from a number of manufacturers has completed the certification process meaning that WiMAX Certified™ equipment is a reality today on the market. More will follow.

In addition the WiMAX Forum is looking ahead now that the IEEE802.16e-2005 standard is published and is defining future certification profiles that will apply to equipment that will add increasing mobility from simple indoor mounted / nomadic terminals to fully mobile terminals. It is anticipated that these may operate in the 3.5GHz band.

#### Regulatory Developments

With the evolution mentioned above in mind, the WiMAX Forum is aware of and participating in the developments going on within the ECC/CEPT working groups to strengthen the regulatory framework to support these developments. This includes clarification of the nomadic applications and an examination from the spectrum management perspective, of the possibility for introducing greater mobility to terminal devices in the 3400-3600MHz (and 3600-3800MHz) frequency range.

## **Licences Conditions**

At present the WiMAX Forum is not familiar with the current or expected new licence conditions for the 3.5GHz band in Greece but hopes that the framework will be sufficiently flexible to accommodate the evolving broadband wireless access developments identified above.

The WiMAX Forum is encouraged to see licence block sizes that will encourage truly broadband provision, especially the 2x28MHz and 2x21MHz blocks. Additionally it is noticed that there are spare 3.5MHz channels between each block. It is assumed that these are identified as guard bands. The WiMAX Forum is interested in maximising the use of spectrum resources and suggests that through consideration of the latest ECC Recommendations<sup>1</sup>, it may be possible to remove these and assign slightly larger blocks.

## **Licensing Proposals**

The WiMAX Forum notes that you have specific questions concerning regional and national licensing schemes. The WiMAX Forum itself would not be a licence applicant although service provider members may of course be interested. However the WiMAX Forum is very interested in creating the right environment to accelerate the take up of wireless broadband services which we believe can bring huge benefits to consumers in all types of region (maybe for different reasons). Therefore it is important that whatever ultimate decisions are taken they foster this environment taking due account of the possibilities for solid positive business cases, scope to develop new services and the possibility to maximise economies of scale to keep down operating costs.

## **Finally**

The WiMAX Forum is willing to help in whatever way it can through its organisation of working groups and collective membership experience. Please do not hesitate to make contact if any further clarification is needed.

Yours Sincerely

Tim Hewitt

Chair; WiMAX Forum Regulatory Working Group

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<sup>1</sup>ECC Recommendation (04)05; Guidelines for Accommodation and Assignment of Multipoint Fixed Wireless Systems in Frequency Bands 3.4-3.6 GHz and 3.6-3.8 GHz.