

ITU WRC 15 – Position Statement L-Band 1427-1518MHz



ITU-R WRC 15 / L-Band 1427-1518MHz

GROWING DEMAND FOR BANDWIDTH AND THE NEED FOR MORE SPECTRUM IN THE SAMENA REGION

SAMENA Council

- Is supporting a primary allocation to mobile and IMT identification in the band 1427-1518MHz during the ITU WRC-15
- Is inviting policy makers and administrations from Middle East and North Africa to pursue all necessary efforts to make the 1427-1518MHz band available for SDL to allow mobile network operators to offer innovative mobile broadband services

Globally, mobile data traffic doubled between 2012 and 2013. The increasing number of LTE deployment is opening a whole new landscape of users' applications and revenue opportunities for operators. For the Middle East and Africa, Cisco projects that mobile data traffic will grow 14-fold from 2013 to 2018, and that video traffic will be account for 76% of mobile data traffic in the region by 2018, compared to 50% at the end of 2013. This will increase the asymmetry of traffic (downlink vs. uplink traffic) and require more spectrum for downlink than for uplink.

The frequency range 1427-1518 MHz is currently being auctioned for commercial IMT services across different regions globally (i.e. Europe - Japan). Moreover without waiting for the ITU WRC-15 outcomes, European Commission just decided to mandate the release of 1452-1492MHz spectrum for SDL throughout the EU. This decision was approved by the EU member states in March 2015 leaving to Member States 6 months to make this portion of the L-band available for the SDL use. Last but not least, ASMG has decided to support the identification for IMT of the band 1452-1492MHz.

The 3GPP standard for the L-band already exists: 3GPP Band XXXII. The band can then be used in a near foreseeable future but a clear outcome at the ITU WRC-15 on the use of this band will allow national regulators to make the band available for IMT services and operators to benefit from a dedicated band for downlink. SDL in 1452-1492MHz is particularly relevant to Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries where downlink data traffic is booming and where the harmonization and use of L-Band SDL can generate substantial economic and social benefits reaching a net profit value of \$26bn according to Plum Consulting study in 2012. In many countries the cost of making the band available for IMT services is expected to be low in particular for the 1452-1492MHz band because there is currently little use of the band.

About SAMENA Telecommunications Council

The SAMENA Telecommunications Council is a tri-regional, non-profit telecommunications association that represents over 40 telecommunications operators in 25 markets. SAMENA Council's membership embodies a community of telecom operators, technology providers and manufacturers, and leading global management consultancy organizations. SAMENA's Board of Directors and member companies include the largest regional operators and global multi-network operators as well as new competitive entrants. SAMENA Council focuses on digitization and broadband investment policies, and aims to promote beneficial regulation and governance that further industry evolution, as well as encourage cooperation among key ICT industry stakeholders.

SAMENA's vision is to provide a unified voice and a collaboration forum for leading operators and service providers in the SAMENA region. Its mission is to promote the development and adoption of policies, regulations, standards, business models, and collaboration initiatives that enable growth and improve efficiency in the telecommunications industry of the SAMENA region, incentivize investment and development, and broaden value-creation opportunities.

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