

Expressions of interest sought for spectrum licences in the 500 MHz band

ACMA invites expressions of interest for spectrum licences in the 500 MHz band which expire on 31 May 2007. The licences are detailed in the table below.

Initially issued for 10 years from 1997, an amendment to the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* extended the maximum spectrum licence period in the 500 MHz band to 15 years. Licensees of that spectrum were offered the chance to increase their licence term to 2012. Most chose to accept that

offer. However, four licensees decided to continue with the 10 year term.

ACMA extends this invitation for expressions of interest as it is seeking input before making a decision on the future of these licences.

ACMA also welcomes views on the tenure and fees for any new licences.

CLOSING DATE

Closing date for expressions of interest is 15 March 2006.



RESIDUAL SPECTRUM IN THE 500 MHz BAND

Spectrum licences for other parts of the 500 MHz band are also available. These licences will expire in May 2012. The spectrum is suitable for various uses including

- mobile two-way radiocommunications
- trunked radio systems where channels are pooled and a number of operators share the radiofrequencies
- remote data acquisition, and
- associated control functions.

The 500 MHz band spectrum licences were originally allocated in 1997 by auction. At the close of the allocation some of the auction lots remained unsold and so these lots are available for purchase. Information regarding the previous allocation can be found in the Auction Results section of the ACMA website.

Spectrum is available in Cairns, Townsville, Northern Rivers, Newcastle, Sydney, Central West New South Wales, Canberra/South Coast, Regional Victoria, Tasmania, South West Western Australia, and the Pilbara region.

APPLICATIONS

Applications can be lodged at any time. Applications received before the closing date for an allocation round will be assessed in that round. Applications received after the closing date for an allocation round will be processed in the following round.

Closing dates for this year's allocation rounds are 26 April 2006, 26 July 2006 and 25 October 2006.

ALLOCATION PROCESS

If there is only one applicant, ACMA will offer the applicant the opportunity to acquire a licence for its reserve price. If there is more than one applicant for a licence, ACMA will conduct an auction to allocate the licence.

To assist applicants, ACMA has prepared an applicant information package which is available from ACMA. The package contains:

- an overview of what is being allocated and a guide to the allocation process, including instructions for participating
- the Radiocommunications (Allocation of Spectrum Licences by Auction or Predetermined Price) Determination 2003 under which spectrum licences will be allocated
- other relevant legal instruments governing the allocation and use of spectrum licences in this band, and
- application documents.

ACMA recommends that potential applicants read the package before applying.

AREA	BANDWIDTH	FREQUENCY (LOW)
NEW SOUTH WALES / AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY		
Sydney / Wollongong	12.5 kHz 37.5 kHz 12.5 kHz 25 kHz 37.5 kHz	500.9937500 MHz 504.9437500 MHz 510.9937500 MHz 511.0687500 MHz 514.9437500 MHz
Canberra / South Coast	12.5 kHz 50 kHz 100 kHz 75 kHz 12.5 kHz 50 kHz 100 kHz	500.9937500 MHz 501.0437500 MHz 501.4937500 MHz 504.7937500 MHz 510.9937500 MHz 511.0437500 MHz 511.4937500 MHz
Central West	12.5 kHz 12.5 kHz	500.9937500 MHz 510.9937500 MHz
Newcastle	12.5 kHz 37.5 kHz 12.5 kHz 37.5 kHz	500.9937500 MHz 504.9437500 MHz 510.9937500 MHz 514.9437500 MHz
Northern Rivers	12.5 kHz 12.5 kHz	500.9937500 MHz 510.9937500 MHz
VICTORIA		
Melbourne	100 kHz 100 kHz	501.4937500 MHz 511.4937500 MHz
QUEENSLAND		
Brisbane	100 kHz 100 kHz	501.0937500 MHz 511.0937500 MHz
Cairns	12.5 kHz 25 kHz 25 kHz	501.0062500 MHz 501.0187500 MHz 511.0187500 MHz
SOUTH AUSTRALIA		
Adelaide	12.5 kHz	510.9937500 MHz

MORE INFORMATION

More information about these licences and the application information package, are on the ACMA website, www.acma.gov.au (and go to Licences > Auctions > Current projects), or contact Tamara Lee, Pricing and Policy Branch, telephone: 02 6219 5192, fax: 02 6219 5231, email: spectrumallocations@acma.gov.au