

ANNOUNCEMENT

By Decision No. 239 of 20 March 2009 the Communications Regulation Commission (CRC) has announced its intention to hold a contest for granting a right of use for individually assigned scarce resource – radio frequency spectrum for carrying out electronic communications through three electronic communications networks for terrestrial digital broadcasting with national coverage, according to the Second phase of the Plan for introduction of terrestrial digital television broadcasting (DVB-T) in the Republic of Bulgaria (The Plan), approved by the Council of Ministers, making use of the following individually assigned scarce resource – radio frequency spectrum:

Radio frequency resource for three networks with national coverage for terrestrial digital television broadcasting of programs of commercial television operators		
Zone of service	Channel	Frequency band /MHz/
Blagoevgrad	31	550-558
Blagoevgrad	42	638-646
Blagoevgrad	45	662-670
Burgas	25	502-510
Burgas	30	542-550
Burgas	48	686-694
Varna	33	566-574
Varna	35	582-590
Varna	50	702-710
Vidin	26	510-518
Vidin	30	542-550
Vidin	45	662-670
Kardjali	21	470-478
Kardjali	45	662-670
Kardjali	60	782-790
Pleven	29	534-542
Pleven	38	606-614
Pleven	40	622-630
Plovdiv	30	542-550
Plovdiv	32	558-566
Plovdiv	39	614-622
Ruse	21	470-478
Ruse	27	518-526
Ruse	45	662-670

Smolian	28	526-534
Smolian	38	606-614
Smolian	55	742-750
Sofia	34	574-582
Sofia	48	686-694
Sofia	53	726-734
Stara Zagora	31	550-558
Stara Zagora	34	574-582
Stara Zagora	50	702-710
Shumen	24	494-502
Shumen	39	614-622
Shumen	52	718-726

The right of use will be granted for the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria for a term of 15 years.

According to Art.89 of the Law on Electronic Communications (LEC) (promulgated in State Gazette No. 41 of 2007, amended - SG No. 17 of 2009), the Commission may announce on its own initiative an intention to conduct a contest (or an auction) should it be necessary to restrict the number of rights of use granted for a particular available scarce resource.

The Plan states that for the Second phase of the transition, scarce resource – radio frequency spectrum for three networks with national coverage, is envisaged. According to the provision of § 5a, paragraph 2 of the Transitional and Final Provisions of the Law on Electronic Communications, it is stated that simultaneously with the procedure for determining of undertaking, to which a right of use shall be granted according to the First phase of the Plan, CRC opens a further contest procedure for selection of undertaking, to which a right of use shall be issued for individually assigned scarce resource – radio frequency spectrum for carrying out electronic communications through electronic communications networks for terrestrial digital broadcasting with national coverage, in accordance with the envisaged provisions for the Second phase of the Plan.

The conditions which CRC shall impose regarding the right of use of radio frequency spectrum are that the right of use of the individually assigned scarce resource – radio frequency spectrum shall arise after its release by the undertakings carrying out terrestrial analogue television broadcasting with national coverage. The stages are as follows:

- By July 2011 the undertaking shall start broadcasting on an „island” principle in the cities of Burgas, Varna, Vidin, Plovdiv, Ruse, Sofia and Stara Zagora;
- By January 2012 the undertaking shall start broadcasting on an „island” principle in the cities of Blagoevgrad, Kardjali, Pleven, Smolian and Shumen;
- By December 2013 the undertaking should ensure population coverage of at least 75% for the zones of service of Burgas, Varna, Vidin, Plovdiv, Ruse, Sofia and Stara Zagora;
- By July 2014 the undertaking should ensure population coverage of at least 75% for the zones of service of Blagoevgrad, Kardjali, Pleven, Smolian and Shumen;
- By June 2015 the undertaking should ensure population coverage of at least 95% for each zone of service.

The persons wishing to obtain a right of use of individually assigned scarce resource – radio frequency spectrum for carrying out electronic communications through electronic communications networks for terrestrial digital broadcasting can submit their intentions within a period of 14 days as from the date of publication of the present announcement in a national daily paper and on the Internet site of CRC.