



TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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LEEWARD HIGHWAY
PROVIDENCIALES
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

OCTOBER 9, 2008

DECISION NOTICE 2008 – 1

Re: Spectrum Allocations pertaining to the 3.4MHz to 3.6MHz band

INTRODUCTION

On July 15, 2008, the Commission released public notice 2008 – 1, giving notice of its intention to establish a regulatory framework for managing the spectrum in the 3.4 MHz to 3.6 MHz band. The deadline for comments on this notice was August 15, 2008. A table outlining the approach to the assignment of frequency blocks within the band, and fees proposed to apply to the use of the spectrum were contained in the table, which also set out proposed conditions that would apply to licensees.

COMMENTS RECEIVED

In response to the public notice, the Commission received a letter of comment from Cable and Wireless TCI Ltd. (C & W), covering two points of concern. First, the company expressed concern that while incumbents were given first access rights to spectrum blocks, they were to be limited to a maximum of 20 MHz (paired), and it appeared that this limitation may not apply to other applicants. The Commission notes that in the notice, there is the statement that “*any interested person may apply for any unused spectrum in this band on the same terms and conditions as those granted the licensed operators*”, which was intended by the Commission to include the maximum allowed assignment, although for complete clarity, the Commission will add wording to the final version to emphasize this point.

The second comment from Cable and Wireless touched on the requirement for a minimum of 5 MHz (paired) per applicant, stating that users should be able to make their own determination as to the amount of spectrum required for their business application, although the company also stated that most applications would likely require more than 5 MHz of spectrum. The Commission concludes that the minimum set out in the proposal is likely a practical amount, and for administrative and operational simplicity, is likely a pragmatic setting. If there are applications that arise that require a lesser amount, the

Commission will consider them on a case-by-case basis, but the limitation will remain in the assignment table.

COMMISSION DETERMINATION

As discussed above, the Commission has made the editorial change noted, and establishes the table of available assignments as shown in the attached table that will be placed on the Commission's web site. The date of this decision will be the starting point for the 6 month count for any of the incumbents' applications.

Spectrum Allocations pertaining to the 3.4MHz to 3.6MHz band

Turks and Caicos Islands Telecommunications Commission

In accordance with section 30 of the Telecommunications Ordinance 2004 and sub-sections 4(6), (7) and (8) of the Frequency Management Regulations 2005, the Turks and Caicos Islands Telecommunications Commission establishes the following allocations pertaining to the 3.4 MHz to 3.6 MHz band and in the method for authorizing the use of this band as set out in the table below. The allocations are as set out in TCITC Decision 2008 – 2, dated October 9, 2008 and are effective as of that date.

Allocations in the 3400 MHz to 3600 MHz Band of the Spectrum		
Licensing Procedures	Initial authorizations will be limited to currently facility-based licensed telecommunication operators; namely, Cable & Wireless, Digicel Turk & Caicos, IslandCom, Andrews, Apollo	Licensed operators will be granted six months to apply for a maximum of 20Mhz (paired) of spectrum in the 3400 to 3600 MHz band for use on an exclusive basis. After the 6 month period any interested person may apply for any unused spectrum in this band on the same terms and conditions as those granted the licensed operators, including the maximum of 20 MHz (paired) per applicant.
Initial Fee	\$10,000 USD	A one time fee with application
Spectrum Fee	\$ 5,000 USD for first 1 MHz ¹ (paired) and \$ 2,500 USD for each additional 1 MHz (paired)	Minimum authorization of 5 MHz (paired)

¹ For greater clarity, the cost of a unidirectional 1 MHz path is \$2500 for the first link and \$1250 for each additional 1 MHz link. Paired links consist of two 1 MHz links from distinct groups used to provide a bi-directional communications link.

Band Plan for 3400-3600 MHz Wireless Access Systems

The band 3400-3600 MHz is divided into frequency blocks of 20 MHz each, and designated as follows:

BLOCK A	3400 – 3420 MHz
BLOCK B	3420 – 3440 MHz
BLOCK C	3440 – 3460 MHz
BLOCK D	3460 – 3480 MHz
BLOCK E	3480 – 3500 MHz (Gov't reserved)
BLOCK F	3500 – 3520 MHz
BLOCK G	3520 – 3540 MHz
BLOCK H	3540 – 3560 MHz
BLOCK I	3560 – 3580 MHz
BLOCK J	3580 – 3600 MHz (Gov't reserved)

This band is available for licensing Wireless Access systems, including WiMAX. Applications and may include point-to-point applications.

Frequency blocks are paired as follows:

- Blocks A and F
- Blocks B and G
- Blocks C and H
- Blocks D and I
- Blocks E and J (Gov't reserved)

Frequency blocks are symmetrically paired to facilitate Frequency Division Duplex (FDD) systems. Time Division Duplex (TDD) systems may operate in either block of each pair.