

Press release

Licensed Shared Access a facilitator for harmonized access to 2.3 GHz mobile spectrum in Europe

Additional mobile spectrum will be essential for meeting future demand for mobile broadband in Europe. Demand is forecast to increase by several orders of magnitude in the period to 2030 and reliance on bands exclusively licensed for mobile to meet demand may not be sufficient to avert a spectrum crunch. Licensed Shared Access (LSA) provides a regulatory framework for licensed sharing of bands by mobile that are already assigned to another user. LSA allows both the existing user and the new mobile user to operate with certainty. 2.3 GHz spectrum is a globally harmonised band for mobile broadband but in Europe other uses of the band have prevented its widespread adoption. LSA could change this and make the band economically viable for mobile broadband.

A study undertaken by Plum Consulting shows that Europe could benefit in economic terms by €12bn over the period to 2030 as a result of implementing mobile broadband in 2.3 GHz spectrum with the LSA regulatory framework. The benefits come from supporting larger capacity networks, higher download speeds and new product innovation.

This independent study was commissioned by Ericsson, Nokia Solutions and Networks and Qualcomm Incorporated. A full copy of the report and the executive summary are available at www.plumconsulting.co.uk

Tony Lavender, CEO at Plum Consulting noted on the publication of the study that the economic benefits enabled by the availability of 2.3 GHz through LSA could well be in excess of €12bn – using the 2.3 GHz band with LSA reduces operators' deployment costs as mobile data traffic continues to increase and it also facilitates the introduction of new products and pricing options for mobile operators. He added that as 2.3 GHz is already globally harmonised, Europe will be able to benefit from the scale economies of this band and make another valuable contribution toward meeting targets for mobile spectrum.

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