Award of spectrum in the band at 3.5 GHz for Broadband Wireless Access (BWA); Consultation

The auction for the award of spectrum in the band at 3.5 GHz for Broadband Wireless Access ended successfully on 15 December 2006.

The following three companies acquired frequencies for use in all 28 regions:

- Clearwire Europe S.á.r.l.
- Inquam Broadband GmbH
- DBD Deutsche Breitbanddienste GmbH.

Besides these three successful nationwide bidders, the two companies below were awarded frequencies for regional operation:

- Televersa Online GmbH – Regions Oberpfalz (Region 25) and Niederbayern (Region 28)

Not awarded was spectrum package D in 24 regions (Regions 1–13, 15–24 and 26) and spectrum package C in Region 14. Hence these packages are still available in these regions. However, existing WLL occupancy means that they are not available for use nationwide and not to the full extent (see Annex for more details).

Conditions of award

Spectrum was awarded on the basis of the decision of the President's Chamber of the Federal Network Agency for Electricity, Gas, Telecommunications, Post and Railway on the award of spectrum in the band at 3.5 GHz for Broadband Wireless Access (BWA). The main points of the decision are given below:

- award of usage rights in 28 regions (see Annex, page 1, overview)
- award of 4 spectrum packages of 21 MHz each, paired, in each region
- usage parameter conditions
- stipulation of a coverage obligation
- award through the instrument of the auction.

This decision, issued on 26 September 2006, was published in the Federal Network Agency Official Gazette 20/2006 as Order No 42/2006, and can also be viewed on the Internet.

Alternative frequency bands

A decision on the award of further spectrum for Broadband Wireless Access will also need to consider the possibility of assignment in other frequency bands as an alternative.

Also available for BWA in principle is spectrum in the band at 3600 to 3800 MHz. Radio relay links are also operated in this band, however, so that BWA use will only be possible after examination of the compatibility conditions in light of the concrete parameters of use in the given instance. There are also plans to open the band at 5725 to 5875 MHz for BWA. Publication of the concrete assignment possibilities and conditions of use in the bands named is expected in the second half of 2007.
Consultation

The Federal Network Agency is planning to award the available spectrum in the band at 3.5 GHz in accordance with the determinations made in the President's Chamber decision of 26 September 2006, in line with demand.

Comments on the planned approach are invited by the closing date of 21 May 2007 and should be submitted in German, in writing and electronically (Word or PDF), to the following address

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