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## Public Consultation

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### S-band Utilization by NGSO satellites

Commencement Date: 25 October 2022

Response Date: 18 November 2022

## Preface and Notes to Potential Respondents

In keeping with its values of collaboration and commitment, TDRA wishes to review the current and future utilization of S-band in the UAE based on present and future spectrum allocations/assignments by engaging with the sector stakeholders, this public consultation document is prepared aiming to obtain views and feedback from the sector on TDRA's activities related to the review of frequency spectrum allocations/assignments in the frequency bands 1980 - 2010 MHz and 2170 – 2200.

This consultation is initiated in order to keep abreast of developments to better involve its partners and stakeholders via inviting comments and responses to questions identified in this document from all interested parties, which will assist TDRA in identifying future directions in this regard.

Stakeholders should respond to this consultation in writing to TDRA on or before the response date stated on the front cover of this document.

The comments which are contained in any response to this consultation should be clearly identified with respect to the specific question in this consultation to which such comments refer. Any comments which are of a general nature and not in response to a particular question should be clearly identified as such.

Responses to this consultation should be made in writing and provided electronically in MS Word format and Adobe PDF format, on or before the response date stated on the front cover of this document. Responses must be accompanied by the full contacts details (contact name, e-mail address and phone and fax numbers) of the respondent to:

[spectrumconsultation@tdra.gov.ae](mailto:spectrumconsultation@tdra.gov.ae);

Executive Director Spectrum Affairs  
Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA)  
P.O. Box 26662  
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Respondents are advised that it will be the general intention of TDRA to publish in full the responses received to this consultation. Additionally, TDRA may, at its discretion generate and publish a "Summary of Responses" document at the conclusion of this consultation. Accordingly, the Summary of Responses may include references to and citations (in whole or in part) of comments which have been received. TDRA recognizes that certain responses may include commercially sensitive and confidential information which the respondent may not wish to be published. In the event that a response contains confidential information, it shall be the responsibility of the respondent to clearly mark any information which is considered to be of a confidential nature.

In any event the respondent shall be required to submit two versions of its response to TDRA as follows:

- A full copy of its response in MS Word format with any confidential information clearly marked. TDRA will not publish the Word document and will only use it for internal purposes.
- A publishable copy of its response in Adobe PDF format. TDRA will publish the PDF version in its entirety. Thus, the respondent should take care to redact any commercially sensitive and confidential information in the PDF version of its response.

By participating in this consultation and by providing a PDF version of its response the respondent expressly authorizes TDRA to publish the submitted PDF version of its response in full.

It should be noted that none of the ideas expressed or comments made in this consultation document will necessarily result in formal decisions by TDRA and nothing contained herein shall limit or otherwise restrict TDRA's powers to regulate the telecommunications sector at any time.

If any Person or entity seeks to clarify or discuss any part of this Regulations can request for a meeting in writing again to the above E-mail and then TDRA will set the meetings in the period from **7 to 10 November 2022** so that formal comments can still be received by **15.00pm on 18 November 2022**.

## Consultation Schedule

Milestone	Due Date	Notes
Closing Date for Initial Responses	18 November 2022	All responses to this consultation should be properly received by no later than <u>15.00 noon</u> on the closing date. Responses are to be submitted in electronic format as set out in this consultation document.
Latest date for requests for extension to the due date for Initial Responses.	11 November 2022	<p>Stakeholders wishing to secure an extension to the Closing Date for Initial Responses may apply in writing to TDRA for such an extension. The request should set out the rationale for the request.</p> <p>Requests for extension should be submitted by e-mail to the e-mail address shown above.</p> <p>TDRA will not consider any requests for extension which TDRA receives after <u>15.00 noon</u> on the date stated here.</p> <p>TDRA will consider requests to extend the Closing Date for Initial Responses and will take into account such factors as: the number of such requests received; the rationale for such requests; and the effect on the overall time-scale of the particular project in question. In the event that TDRA extends the Closing Date for Initial Responses, TDRA will publish the revised closing date on its website.</p>

## Contents

1. Introduction of the public consultation .....	5
2. Matters for discussion and consultation for 1980 – 2010 and 2170 – 2200 MHz ranges .....	5-6
3. General comments.....	6

## 1. Introduction of the public consultation

In accordance with its vision “The UAE is a global leading country in ICT”, TDRA continues to align its spectrum allocation with the market needs on a pro-active basis.

This public consultation has been prepared to invite inputs from ICT stakeholders globally and especially within the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on the frequency bands 1980 - 2010 MHz and 2170 – 2200, which are increasingly being demanded for the uses of NGSO satellite network/systems. The aim is to facilitate a contiguous and adequate spectrum resource for Mobile Satellite Service and any other services as allocated in the Radio Regulations. The TDRA now invites stakeholders’ input and views including comments, additions or suggestions with regards to the aspects of consultation. In any case, all text in this consultation document should be read and interpreted as text and not as recording decisions of TDRA.

Additionally, TDRA strives to follow the principles of transparency, fairness and openness in dealings with customers, partners and other stakeholders. TDRA therefore considers it important to take into account the views of those who have a legitimate interest in the outcomes of TDRA’s regulatory framework.

## 2. Matters for discussion and consultation for 1980 – 2010 MHz and 2170 – 2200 MHz ranges

These two frequency bands have been allocated globally for Fixed, Mobile, and Mobile Satellite (Earth-to-space) in the band 1980 – 2010 MHz / (space-to-Earth) in the band 2170 – 2200 MHz. In the Radio Regulations, footnote 5.351A is introduced for the use of several bands, including the abovementioned bands, by mobile-satellite service and refers to Resolution 212 (Rev. WRC-19). This resolution facilitates the utilization of the S-band by the satellite IMT component, which resulted in many new requests and initiatives by NGSO satellite operators approaching the TDRA to utilize this band to provide IoT services.

The arising demand for utilizing the bands 1980 – 2010 and 2170 – 2200 MHz for satellite IMT component brought up new difficulties and challenges with regards to the regulatory and technical measures on how to assess these new requests and initiatives. Currently in the UAE national frequency band, the abovementioned bands have been prioritized for the uses of IMT, without any indications of utilizing it for satellite IMT components.

In order to offer services by NGSO satellites in the UAE particularly in these frequency bands, there is a requirement to study the utilization of these bands by NGSO satellites as appropriate.

<b>Question 1:</b>	What is the current status of MSS or other services operating in these frequency bands?
<b>Question 2:</b>	What is the status of the current satellite filings including these frequency bands?
<b>Question 3:</b>	Provide your views on possible opportunities for alternative use of these frequencies

<b>Question 4:</b>	What elements are required in order to compliment Resolution 212 (Rev. WRC-19) of the Radio Regulation, in providing comprehensive regulatory measures for the utilization of the S-band by the satellite IMT component?
<b>Question 5:</b>	What are the technical challenges for MSS use in the band and the co-existence with other existing services?
<b>Question 6:</b>	What are the expected challenges with the utilization of the band in neighboring countries?

### 3. General comments

Further to the specific matters discussed, and questions asked above, please identify any additional issues which you feel are relevant for consideration in this consultation. Please provide specific support and/or explanation of your viewpoints as well as recommendations regarding how such issues might be resolved.