



Telecommunication Newsletter Switzerland

Allocation of Mobile Radio Frequencies: Federal Office of Communication (OFCOM) Has Opened a Public Consultation

The OFCOM has opened a public consultation regarding the allocation options for free mobile radio frequencies and for those that will become available in 2013 and 2016 on behalf of the Federal Communication Commission (ComCom).

The consultation affects the frequencies in the GSM and UMTS mobile radio bands (900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz and 2600 MHz) as well as the frequencies in the 790 to 862 MHz band (digital dividend) which, according to the press release of the OFCOM, are expected to become available for mobile service in 2015 at the latest. The frequencies include in particular the frequencies allocated to Swisscom, Sunrise, Orange and In&Phone until the end of 2013 and the frequencies in the UMTS core band allocated to Orange, Sunrise and Swisscom until the end of 2016.

In the GSM band, four licenses are currently awarded to Swisscom, Sunrise, Orange and In&Phone. The term of the licenses expires at the end of 2013. In the UMTS band, three licenses are currently awarded to Swisscom, Sunrise and Orange which expire at the end of 2016. The fourth license awarded to 3GMobile was revoked by the ComCom in 2008.

The consultation process offers the opportunity to also comment on the inclusion of a national roaming obligation and/or an obligation to offer MVNO services at regulated prices for the license holders in order to stimulate competition. Today, a national roaming obligation was imposed at commercial terms only upon the licensees holding both a GSM and UMTS license in favour of the UMTS licensees, who did not have a GSM license.

Interested parties are invited to file their comments with the OFCOM by June 26, 2009.

For more detailed information please also consult

<http://www.bakom.admin.ch/dokumentation/gesetzgebung/00909/03192/index.html?lang=en>

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David Känzig

For further information please contact:

David Känzig (d.kaenzig@thouvenin.com)