



Belgian Institute for Postal Services
and Telecommunications

Procedure for the granting of rights of use for the 3410- 3430 MHz band

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

17 May 2024

Preliminary remarks

The BIPT refers to the introductory comments included in the [information memorandum](#) concerning the BIPT's liability.

Question 1.

One point we would still like to see clarified regards the moving of spectrum blocks in the 3600 MHz band:

- We understand that it will not be possible to move the bottom 10 MHz - given the lower reserve price.
- The next 10 MHz block can indeed be moved - same reserve price as other blocks in the band.
- The BIPT is willing to take a leading role in this, so operators can be assured of a contiguous block in this 3600 MHz band.

Can you confirm any of this?

The BIPT's answer:

As mentioned in § 21 of the Information Memorandum, Article 4, § 4, of the 3600 MHz Royal Decree allows the BIPT, after hearing the parties concerned, to modify the distribution of allocated frequencies without changing the spectrum volume allocated to each operator, in objectively justified cases with a view to an effective, efficient and coordinated use of the radio spectrum, within reasonable deadlines and ratios. It should be noted that Article 4, § 4, of the 3600 MHz Royal Decree fully applies to the 3410-3800 MHz band including the 3410-3420 MHz frequency block.

As mentioned in § 22 of that same memorandum, the BIPT will most likely change the distribution of the allocated frequencies in the event of the allocation of a frequency block to Orange Belgium, Telenet Group or Proximus. It should be noted that following the transfer of the usage rights for the 3600 MHz band from NRB (3580-3600 MHz frequency block) to Proximus, it already has 2 non-contiguous blocks prior to the procedure for allocation of usage rights for the 3410-3430 MHz band.

The reserve price for the 3600 MHz band was set based on a 2019 study by Analysys Mason. The main reason why the reserve price proposed for the part below 3420 MHz was lower than the one for the rest of the band was the potentially limited use of that spectrum. Analysys Mason had relied on a BIPT draft decision that imposed power restrictions below 3400 MHz to protect the military radars below 3400 MHz.

In 2021, after consulting the operators concerned, the BIPT adopted a new decision for which the power restrictions apply below 3390 MHz instead of 3400 MHz. The BIPT believes that as a result of that decision, the use of the 3410-3420 MHz frequency block is no longer restricted and that there is no longer any reason why that block should be excluded from any reorganisation of the 3600 MHz band.