



BIPT

**BELGIAN INSTITUTE FOR POSTAL SERVICES
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

PRESS RELEASE

BIPT publishes information memorandum for potential applicants for 800 MHz licences for mobile broadband Internet (4G)

Brussels, 1 July 2013 - Today BIPT publishes the Information Memorandum (IM) for the award of spectrum licences in the 800 MHz band, to be used to deliver next-generation (4G) mobile broadband services. This document details, amongst other things, the terms associated with the licences, including incentives available to new mobile operators, and the auction format. It is available on the website www.auction2013.be and is aimed at potential applicants and may be used by them for information purposes to consider their possible participation in the auction.

The BIPT invites interested parties to apply to participate in an auction for spectrum usage rights in the 800 MHz frequency band. Each available licence will enable the holder to build an 800 MHz network, using the frequencies allocated and to provide consumers with electronic communications services.

A total of three licences are available, each consisting of 2x10MHz of spectrum, available for a 20 year term. Each applicant may acquire at most one licence. The minimum price is 120 million euros per licence.

The auction is open to any organisation that fulfills the application requirements, including both existing providers of electronic communications services in Belgium and potential newcomers. Certain incentives are uniquely available to winning bidders that are considered newcomers in the Belgium market for mobile services:

- **Relaxed coverage conditions for newcomers** – All operators that acquire 800 MHz rights are required to meet staged coverage obligations, but licence holders that are not 2G operators will be given more time. For example, whereas 2G operators that acquire a licence will be obliged to cover 98% of the population within six years, other operators would be have nine years to complete the same coverage.
- **National Roaming for newcomers** – Belgacom, Mobistar and KPN GB will be obliged to offer national roaming if they obtain an 800 MHz licence. All other 800 MHz operators will be entitled to obtain national roaming.
- **Option to acquire up to 2x15MHz of spectrum in the 2.6GHz band** – The 2x15 MHz spectrum in the 2.6 GHz band not allocated in 2011 is reserved for an 800 MHz operator, if any, who does not already have a usage right in the 2.6 GHz band.

The auction will use the simultaneous multiple-round ascending bid (SMRA) format, similar to that used for previous awards of spectrum suitable for mobile services in Belgium.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The 800 MHz spectrum band is being made available across Europe for roll-out of next generation wireless broadband services. The spectrum was previously used in Belgium for analogue terrestrial television, and was freed up as part of the “Digital Dividend” resulting from the switchover from analogue to digital television.

In other European countries, spectrum in this band has been acquired by existing or new entrant mobile operators intending to deploy services using LTE (4G) technology. The 800 MHz band is considered particularly attractive spectrum for 4G roll-out because radio signals in this frequency range travel further and penetrate deeper into buildings than higher frequency bands. This means that the band is suitable for both urban and rural deployment in Belgium.

The IM provides selected information for those candidates wishing to bid for an 800 MHz licence in Belgium. It is of an informative nature only. The existing legislation is binding and takes precedence over the memorandum.

MORE INFORMATION FOR INTERESTED PARTIES:

For more information about the award, interested parties may contact auction2013@bipt.be or visit the dedicated website (www.auction2013.be).

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION TO THE PRESS:

Dirk Appelmans
Spokesman
Tel.: 02 226 87 67

More info: www.bipt.be
BIPT
Ellipse Building – Building C – Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 35
1030 Brussels
Tel. 02 226 88 88
Fax 02 226 88 77
info@bipt.be