

Increased demand for spectrum opens up 2 GHz band


The ACMA is now inviting applications for public telecommunications service (PTS) licences in the frequency ranges 1920–1980 and 2110–2170 MHz (the 2 GHz band) in regional and remote areas of Australia.

There is evidence of increasing demand for spectrum, both domestic and internationally, so mobile telecommunications providers are able to provide more services. The 2 GHz band was identified as a suitable IMT band and has been allocated internationally for mobile telecommunications services.

The ACMA has developed licensing and coordination arrangements to support the allocation of PTS apparatus licences in the paired frequency bands 1920–1980 MHz and 2110–2170 MHz (the 2 GHz band) in geographic areas outside of those subject to spectrum licensing arrangements. No spectrum is provided in capital cities or metropolitan areas; however, varying amounts of spectrum are available in regional and remote areas.

By developing appropriate coordination criteria and implementing a new regulatory framework to support the allocation of PMTS-B apparatus licences in the 2 GHz band, the ACMA can facilitate increased use of the band by multiple services in areas where the spectrum may have otherwise remained unused. The map below provides an indication of the geographic areas where 2 GHz spectrum is being made available for allocation via the issue of PMTS-B apparatus licences.

The ACMA applied an administrative allocation process, also referred to as an over the counter (OTC) process, to issue PMTS-B apparatus licences in the 2 GHz band. Applications closed on 2 June 2010 and were assessed on a first in time basis.

The ACMA will accept applications for remaining spectrum in the 2 GHz band at any time once the initial applications received in the window period have been assessed and apparatus licences issued. The ACMA will advise stakeholders of this date on its website. 

The ACMA has developed a paper to assist applicants in the application and assessment process. The information paper and other supporting information can be obtained from the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to For licensees & industry: Service & technical requirements > Radiofrequency spectrum: Frequency assignment & coordination > Latest developments) or by contacting the Radiocommunications Licensing and Telecommunications Deployment Section on 1300 850 115 or via email at lais@acma.gov.au.

