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Department of Telecommunications

Ministry of Communications

Sanchar Bhawan 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110001

Subject- Inputs for recommendations on sharing of V-Band between IMT and satellite

Dear Sir,

1. We write with reference to the Committee's deliberation on the issue of apportionment/sharing of V-Band between IMT and satellite services. The National Digital Communications Policy, 2018, envisages better connectivity and access to technology for a Digital India. Space based communication such as satellite broadband connectivity will contribute significantly to this vision. Today out of the 1.4 billion population, more than 40% do not have access to broadband. The Government has taken a number of initiatives to bridge this digital divide, and satellite networks are expected to aid this process. Therefore, considering the immense value that the satellite services can bring in providing connectivity to every corner of the country, it is extremely important to protect the requirements of the sector.

2. In this regard, we are sharing the following additional submissions on behalf of the satellite industry:-

(a) While we agree with the exclusive allocation of 40-42.5 GHz for satellite in the frequency band 37-43.5 GHz and the exclusive allocation of 37-37.5 GHz for IMT, we would like to submit that with reference to sharing of frequencies 37.5-40 GHz and 42.5-43.5 GHz between both the services, the assumption that these frequencies will be only used by satellite operators for gateways is not correct. As you would know, there have been a number of filings in the ITU for NGSO networks (that would cover India) that indicate the use this spectrum for both gateway feeder links and user terminals.

(b) We agree with assigning the 47.7-48.2 GHz band exclusively for satellite. However, there is a need to have the exclusive apportionment for satellite extended up to 50.2 GHz (i.e. 47.7 to 50.2 GHz). Also, the 50.4 to 51.4 GHz band should be exclusively reserved for satellite use as there are several filings that have been made with the ITU for NGSO constellations in these bands.

(c) Further, for the frequency band 47.2-47.7 GHz, the assumption that this band is earmarked only for gateway feeder links is not correct as the band will also be used for user terminals. Any attempt to share this spectrum with IMT will put severe constraints on the satellite networks and create barriers for use by satellite operators and service providers.

3. It is also worth pointing out that the satellite networks provide much needed connectivity in rural and remote areas, where other technologies and networks have not or will not deploy. Further, as there are service/coverage gaps even in certain pockets in urban areas, there are many unserved and underserved areas even within the urban areas where satellite will play an important role and provide much needed connectivity.

4. We therefore request you to consider the above submissions and recommend exclusive apportionment for satellite use in the above bands.

Sincerely,



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