

Ofcom Consultation on next steps of the release of spectrum within the frequency ranges 143MHz to 169MHz



Joint Response from the Radio Society of Great Britain, AMSAT-UK and BATC

May 2014

This response to the above Ofcom consultation document is from the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB, www.rsgb.org) behalf of its members and the wider Amateur Radio community in the UK. The latter includes both individual operators as well as a variety of special interest groups including the British Amateur Television Club (BATC, www.batc.org.uk) and AMSAT-UK (amsat-uk.org) who have participated in this response.

The RSGB is recognised as one of the leading organisations in the world in the field of amateur radio. It collaborates with its fellow national societies via the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) through IARU Region 1 (www.iaru-r1.org).

Amateur radio is a science-based technical hobby enjoyed by over three million people worldwide. From a statutory point of view, it is fully recognised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as a Service and is listed in the ITU Radio Regulations as the Amateur Service and the Amateur Satellite Service.

Amateur radio is a hobby that promotes experimentation and innovation in radio techniques and propagation. As proposed in our original 2012 submission¹, we believe there is an unprecedented opportunity for VHF innovation and growth. We therefore strongly support access for amateur radio to 146-147 MHz in order to support innovative developments of digital voice, data and media (DATV) applications.

¹ "VHF Spectrum Release in the range 143 MHz to 156 MHz", RSGB Joint Response, Oct-2012, <http://rsgb.org/main/files/2013/05/VHF-Spectrum-Release-v3.2.pdf>

Questions and Answers

Q1. *Do you agree with the proposed approach for spectrum management?*

A1. Yes, we agree with Ofcom's proposed approach (Option-2) regarding a managed release, rather than no release or an award process

Q2. *Do you agree with the proposed approach for Business Radio assignments?*

A2. No Comment

Q3. *Do you agree with the proposal to allocate spectrum for Maritime and/or Land Search and Rescue use?*

A3. No Comment

Q4. *Do you agree with the proposal to make some spectrum not currently assigned to other applications available on a temporary for Amateur Radio use with these restrictions?*

A4. Yes. The RSGB welcomes the proposal to make some spectrum not currently assigned to other applications available for Amateur Radio use as set out in Annex-7 of the Ofcom document.

We believe this represents an unprecedented opportunity for amateurs to experiment and develop new low-cost digital radio solutions supporting both voice and multimedia including video. It should also provide the impetus for innovative new software radio solutions using available commercial chip-sets with collaborative software development.