

Dynamic Spectrum Alliance Welcomes Ofcom's Consultation on Expanding Access to the 6 GHz Band

The Dynamic Spectrum Alliance (DSA) welcomes Ofcom's recent public consultation on expanding access to the 6 GHz band for commercial mobile and Wi-Fi services. This initiative which proposes to allow the use of low power indoor (LPI) Wi-Fi devices across the upper 6 GHz band and standard power (SP) Wi-Fi devices in the lower part of the band using an Automated Frequency Coordination (AFC) database demonstrates Ofcom's pragmatic approach to spectrum management as a means to maximize user benefits.

DSA endorses Ofcom's envisaged two-phase approach and the UK's vision to introduce LPI Wi-Fi into the 6425-7125 MHz band as early as possible. We also advocate for the authorization of Very Low Power (VLP) Wi-Fi devices in this band. We appreciate Ofcom's efforts to harness the capability of Wi-Fi to share spectrum with incumbent users of the 6 GHz band while supporting further studies to potentially introduce mobile communication systems in parts of the upper 6 GHz band.

We are encouraged by Ofcom's new consultation, which aligns with the UK Government's priorities of supporting economic growth, innovation, and the modernization of public services. This proposal will help the UK align with existing market standards and best practices. Users in countries that have already opened the upper 6 GHz band for licence-exempt use are experiencing the full capabilities of the latest Wi-Fi generations. With this proposal, UK users, too will be able to take advantage of gigabit throughputs, very low latencies and innovative applications. Once standard power Wi-Fi will be authorized, they will benefit from the flexibility of the technology which will allow them to use 6 GHz Wi-Fi at higher power levels, both indoors and outdoors.

DSA acknowledges Ofcom's understanding of the enterprise perspective and their recognition of the need for more downlink and uplink capacity for license-exempt networks in the 6 GHz band. There also is a strong demand by enterprise customers for better outdoor coverage by Wireless Access Systems/Radio Local Area Networks (WAS/RLANs).

We appreciate Ofcom's efforts to harmonize appropriate solutions for shared use of Wi-Fi and, eventually, mobile connectivity in parts of the upper 6 GHz band with their European counterparts. This will encourage future investment in equipment and services across the continent and deliver benefits to consumers, citizens, businesses, and operators through larger economies of scale.