

MOBILE BROADBAND AND ULTRA FAST MOBILE 5TH MARCH 2009

On the overall strategy for mobile frequency allocation

ARCEP is part of the global spectrum strategy announced by the Prime Minister on 12 January.

The **challenge** is, first, to enable the swift commercial launch of ultra fast mobile services (in the 2.6 GHz and 800 MHz bands), which will replace UMTS over the course of the next decade and, second, to make unallocated frequencies in the 2.1 GHz band available to market players.

Objectives: investment, competition, innovation. The goal of this strategy is to provide players with maximum visibility on all of these frequencies and to stimulate investment in the deployment of new ultra fast mobile networks.

Priorities: coverage and quality of service, high volume and speed, nationwide.

The decisions being taken by ARCEP are part of a **European trend**. A number of countries are working to identify the frequency bands that will enable the deployment of ultra fast mobile systems.

On the 2.6 GHz and 800 MHz frequency bands

The goal is to prepare a long-term process of investment in ultra fast mobile networks.

The **very open public consultation** will not exclude any possible paths in terms of methods, candidate selection procedures, whether or not to combine the two frequency bands, etc. Its purpose is to gather feedback from all stakeholders (operators, consumers, manufacturers), on even the most recent issues.

The goal of this consultation is to **help ARCEP prepare its decision** on the award of spectrum licences for the 2.6 GHz and 800 MHz frequency bands.

It helps provide **visibility** for French market players with enough of a head-start, allowing them to gain a stronger competitive position in the **international market**.

Regional development is a central part of the procedure. Thanks to its propagation properties, the 800 MHz frequencies from the digital dividend are very well suited to achieving broad national coverage, which is why they have been assigned to electronic communications.

On the 2.1 GHz frequency band

The Authority's Executive Board has adopted a decision that provides the Ministry responsible for electronic communications with recommendations on the methods and terms for allocating the remaining available frequencies in the 2.1 GHz band.

Their proposal is being transmitted to the Government.

The obligations contained in the call for candidates are the same as those that were included in previous calls for submissions. This is very important to ensuring equity with the other operators.

The procedure includes selection criteria similar to previous calls for candidates.

The selection criteria concerning the access candidates will provide to MVNOs was specified, taking account of the work performed by ARCEP and the Competition Authority (*Conseil de la Concurrence*) in 2008.