



Australian Government

Defence

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The Manager
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REVIEW OF THE 1.5 GHZ BAND: EXTENDED MOBILE SATELLITE SERVICE (MSS) L-BAND OPTIONS PAPER

References

A. Review of the 1.5 GHz band – extended mobile satellite service (MSS) L-band options paper

1. Defence appreciates the opportunity to provide a response to the Review of the 1.5 GHz band – Extended MSS L-band options paper provided in Reference A. Defence understands that the 1.5 GHz band review has been progressed to the preliminary re-planning stage within the ACMA’s spectrum planning process.

2. Defence prepared this response in the view that the current preliminary re-planning stage revises only the arrangements for MSS in the 1518-1525 MHz and 1668-1675 MHz frequency range, while the review of other services in the band would follow later in separate stages. Defence acknowledges that there will be more opportunities to engage with the ACMA throughout the spectrum planning process in order to develop an updated spectrum regulatory framework for this band.

3. Australian Government strategically plans Defence Capabilities in 5 to 10 year intervals under the umbrella of Defence Corporate Plans. Defence is developing an inaugural *National Defence Strategy*, to be delivered in 2024. The 2024 *National Defence Strategy* will provide a comprehensive outline of Defence policy, planning, capabilities and resourcing, including reprioritisation of the Integrated Investment Program, in line with the strategic intent of the *Defence Strategic Review*. Defence would be in a better position to provide more details on future capabilities once the strategy becomes available.

4. Australian Government has acknowledged the importance of space by recognising space as an operational and warfighting domain, alongside the existing domains of maritime, land, air and cyber. It is vital for Australia to retain a capability edge in space and ensure Australia’s freedom to access space capabilities and protect Australia’s national interests. Government is investing over \$7 billion in the coming decades to improve defence’s resilience and provide assured access to space, enable situational awareness, deliver real-time communications, positioning, navigation and timing information.

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5. Space systems are a part of the national and global infrastructure upon which all nations depend. Access to space systems and space-derived information is crucial to Australia's economic prosperity, social and national security interests. Loss of access to space would impact critical Australian infrastructure such as transport, finance and telecommunication. It would also impact the Government's ability to deliver essential services such as emergency responses, environmental monitoring, air and maritime surveillance and traffic management.

6. In regards to the options paper (Ref A), Defence's response has been shaped by specific questions listed in the paper which are provided below.

Question 1 – Comment is sought on the proposed desirable planning outcomes for the review of the extended MSS L-band

7. Defence supports the proposed desirable planning outcomes for the extended MSS L-band.

Question 2 – Comment is sought on the options identified. Do you have any alternative options to propose?

8. Defence understands that Option 2 is identified as the preferable option by the ACMA. Defence acknowledges that this Option will be the most suitable for our current and future capabilities.

Question 3 – Comment is sought on the ACMA's assessment of options?

9. Defence would like to raise a concern on the potential planning options that might impede incumbents, under the next stage of the 1.5 GHz review process. Defence however understands that there will be opportunities for further engagement with the ACMA in order to avoid any potential operational and technical restrictions on currently operational and future planned Defence capabilities.

Question 4 – Comment is sought on the ACMA's preliminary preferred approach, including the proposed draft amendments to the Radiocommunications (Communication with Space Object) Class Licence 2015 and associated licence application and allocation process?

10. Defence understands that the proposal for better performing MSS receiver and more stringent blocking levels are already included in draft amendments to the Radiocommunications (Communication with Space Object) Class Licence 2015, and does not have comments on the proposed values. Defence would, however, appreciate adding a reference to relevant ITU Recommendations and/or internationally recognised standards supporting the proposed values. This would facilitate the compliance process, which affected stakeholders and defence industry need to follow as the main providers of a radiocommunications equipment.

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11. My point of contact is Dr Snezana Krusevac on (02) 5130 1169 or via email snezana.krusevac@defence.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

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