



**BIPT**

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**BELGIAN INSTITUTE FOR POSTAL SERVICES  
AND TELECOMMUNICATION**

*PRESS RELEASE*

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**BIPT launches a consultation for the auction of the 800 MHz band  
at the request of Minister Vande Lanotte**

**Brussels, 14 November 2012** – Today BIPT publishes a communication on a study regarding the terms for allocation and use of the 800 MHz band, carried out by an independent external consultant (Athea Consulting Limited and NERA Economic Consulting) and at the same time launches a consultation commissioned by Minister Vande Lanotte on a bill amending the Electronic Communications Act and a draft royal decree as regards the terms for allocation and use of this frequency band.

According to the European Radio Spectrum Policy Programme<sup>1</sup> Member States should carry out the authorisation process before 1 January 2013 in order for the 800 MHz band<sup>2</sup> (also called “digital dividend”) to be available for electronic communications services.

The allocation of the band for electronic communications services is crucial to the provision of high-speed mobile Internet to the population. This also contributes to the recovery and growth of the economy and creates high-quality jobs thereby promoting competitiveness. One of the strategic goals is to stimulate accessibility of new consumer products and technologies.

Considering the importance of the allocation of the frequency band, BIPT launches a public consultation at the request of Minister Vande Lanotte regarding a bill amending the Electronic Communications Act (ECA) and a draft royal decree with regard to the terms for allocation and use of this frequency band.

The draft royal decree and the bill are underpinned by the study carried out by Aetha Consulting Limited and NERA Economic Consulting, carried out for BIPT. This study issues a series of recommendations more in particular on:

- the frequency blocks in the 800 MHz band to be auctioned; 3 lots of 10 MHz duplex;
- the coverage requirements to be complied with: 98% of the population after 6 years;
- quality obligations to be complied with: a compulsory average download speed of 3Mbit/sec;
- the allocation procedure, including a minimum entry bid (90 million euro per lot for a 15-year period).

These elements are included in a draft royal decree and a bill amending Article 30, § 1/1, of the ECA (minimum amount for the unique fee). Both are submitted together for consultation to the sector as of 14 December 2012. Following the public consultation the draft texts will go through the decision-making process. BIPT hopes to complete this allocation procedure by the end of next year, provided that the texts are approved in due time.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 6.4 of the RSPP - Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a pluriannual radio spectrum policy programme (RSPP).

<sup>2</sup> Frequency bands 791-821 MHz and 832-862 MHz.

Luc Hindryckx, BIPT Chairman:

*“This represents the first step towards the auction of the 800 MHz band. It is important for society that 4G and LTE technology become more and more prevalent. It is indeed a means to improve the choice of consumers and access in rural or other regions where the introduction of wired broadband is difficult or is not economically viable. It could mean a significant contribution to minimize the digital gap.”*

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