

BELGIAN INSTITUTE FOR POSTAL SERVICES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

Radio spectrum auction ultimately yields more than 1.4 billion euro

Brussels, 20 July 2022 – Today, the BIPT concluded the final phase of the radio spectrum auction. Following the conclusion of the first phase of the auction of the new 5G spectrum (700 MHz, 3600 MHz) and the existing 2G and 3G radio spectrum (900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz) on 20 June 2022 producing 1.2 billion euro, the BIPT has now also concluded the second and final phase of the auction (1400 MHz radio frequency band). In this frequency band another 90 MHz was auctioned. This auction yielded 216.540.000 euro bringing the total amount for the two auction phases to 1.418.732.400 euro.

On 18 March 2022 the BIPT declared the three applications of the current mobile operators having their own networks, Orange Belgium SA, Proximus SA and Telenet Group SA, to be admissible for the auction of the 1400 MHz radio frequency band. All three of them took part in the simultaneous auction of the 1400 MHz radio frequency band. The two new mobile operators Citymesh Mobile NV and Network Research Belgium NV did not put forward their applications to acquire radio spectrum in this 1400 MHz radio frequency band.

The reserve price (i.e. a minimum entry price for the auction as laid down in the Telecom Act) for the 90 MHz of radio spectrum to be auctioned in the 1400 MHz amounted to 46.500.000 euro.

All three operators obtained user rights in these frequency bands during a simultaneous multiple-round ascending auction (SMRA or Simultaneous Multiple-Round Ascending).

The auction could be ended after 57 rounds. The 1400 MHz radio frequency band is in principle mainly suited for supplemental downlink capacity (i.e. the capacity needed to get downlink traffic on a device, being an added downlink band used next to another band which is also used for upload).

The total amount of the bids received for this procedure concerning 1400 MHz spectrum is 216.540.000 euro, i.e. 170.040.000 euro more than the minimum amount foreseen (amount corresponding to the totality of the lots sold at the reserve price).

The table below shows the final result for the entire multiband auction, itemized per frequency band and per candidate.

Frequency band	Candidate	Amount of spectrum	subband	Amount
900 MHz band	Citymesh Mobile NV/SA	5 MHz duplex	890-895/935-940 MHz	€ 28,005,000
	Orange Belgium NV/SA	10 MHz duplex	905-915/950-960 MHz	€ 56,720,800
	Proximus NV/SA	10 MHz duplex	895-905/940-950 MHz	€ 57,410,800
	Telenet Group NV/SA	10 MHz duplex	880-890/925-935 MHz	€ 57,410,800
1800 MHz band	Citymesh Mobile NV/SA	15 MHz duplex	1750-1765/1845-1860 MHz	€ 27,000,000
	Orange Belgium NV/SA	15 MHz duplex	1735-1750/1830-1845 MHz	€ 27,000,000
	Proximus NV/SA	25 MHz duplex	1710-1735/1805-1830 MHz	€ 109,880,000
	Telenet Group NV/SA	20 MHz duplex	1765-1785/1860-1880 MHz	€ 69,390,000
2100 MHz band	Citymesh Mobile NV/SA	5 MHz duplex	1960-1965/2150-2155 MHz	€ 9,000,000
	Orange Belgium NV/SA	15 MHz duplex	1965-1980/2155-2170 MHz	€ 60,030,000
	Proximus NV/SA	25 MHz duplex	1920-1945/2110-2135 MHz	€ 144,590,000
	Telenet Group NV/SA	15 MHz duplex	1945-1960/2135-2150 MHz	€ 60,420,000
700 MHz band	Citymesh Mobile NV/SA	5 MHz duplex	703-708/758-763 MHz	€ 19,335,000
	Orange Belgium NV/SA	10 MHz duplex	713-723/768-778 MHz	€ 122,860,000
	Proximus NV/SA	10 MHz duplex	723-733/778-788 MHz	€ 122,870,000
	Telenet Group NV/SA	5 MHz duplex	708-713/763-768 MHz	€ 21,340,000
3600 MHz band	Citymesh Mobile NV/SA	50 MHz	3430-3480 MHz	€ 30,990,000
	Network Research Belgium NV/SA	20 MHz	3580-3600 MHz	€ 10,970,000
	Orange Belgium NV/SA	100 MHz	3600-3700 MHz	€ 54,850,000
	Proximus NV/SA	100 MHz	3700-3800 MHz	€ 56,320,000
	Telenet Group NV/SA	100 MHz	3480-3580 MHz	€ 55,800,000
1400 MHz band	Orange Belgium NV/SA	30 MHz	1427-1457 MHz	€ 69.650.000
	Proximus NV/SA	45 MHz	1472-1517 MHz	€ 108.890.000
	Telenet Group NV/SA	15 MHz	1457-1472 MHz	€ 38.000.000

It will be possible to enjoy the user rights for the 700 MHz and the 3600 MHz as of 1 September 2022. As regards the 1400 MHz, 1 October 2022 is aimed at. There is no known date yet for the 900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2100 MHz.

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