

BELGIAN INSTITUTE FOR POSTAL SERVICES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

No candidacies for the auction of the 3410-3430 MHz band

Brussels, 19 December 2023 - The BIPT did not receive candidacies for the auction of the 3410-3430 MHz band. Orange Belgium, Proximus and Telenet Group could not be candidates for this procedure. The spectrum cap will be raised to 120 MHz and the procedure will be reopened early 2024, in order for all operators to be able to submit their applications.

The Royal Decree of 28 November 2021 *on radio access in the 3400-3800 MHz frequency band* (below the '3600 MHz Decree') lays down the conditions for the allocation of rights of use in the 3400-3800 MHz band.

The 3410-3430 MHz band remained unsold following the multiband auction in 2022. On 30 October 2023, the BIPT Council decided to publish an invitation to submit applications for the 3410-3430 MHz frequency band. The invitation of candidates was published in the Belgian Official Journal on 16 November 2023. The deadline for candidacies was 18 December 2023, 10 a.m.

In view of the *100 MHz spectrum cap* (Article 4, § 3, first subparagraph of the 3600 MHz Decree), Orange Belgium, Proximus and Telenet Group were not able to participate in the allocation procedure.

The BIPT received no candidacies.

The 3600 MHz Decree stipulates (Article 4, § 3, last subparagraph) that in this case, a new invitation of candidates is published in accordance with Article 14 whereby a relevant group with regard to a 3.6 GHz operator can hold up to 120 MHz in the frequency band between 3410 MHz and 3800 MHz. Consequently, Orange Belgium, Proximus and Telenet Group will also be able to apply for this new invitation. The rights of use for this band have been granted to Citymesh until 6 May 2025.

The BIPT Council will therefore consider publishing a new invitation early 2024.

For more information:



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