



BIPT

**BELGIAN INSTITUTE FOR POSTAL SERVICES AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

PRESS RELEASE

3 candidates about to participate in the auction of the digital dividend

Brussels, 23 September 2013 - On 14 August 2013 BIPT issued an appeal for candidates to participate in the auction of the digital dividend. Interested parties had until today 23 September 2013 to submit their applications. BIPT received 3 candidacies. The auction shall begin on 12 November 2013.

On 14 August 2013, BIPT launched a call for candidates to participate in the auction of spectrum user rights in the 800 MHz frequency band. The allocation of the 800 MHz frequency band, also known as "digital dividend", to electronic communications services is crucial to provide the population with high-speed mobile Internet. Before, the spectrum in Belgium was used for analogue terrestrial television and was released as part of the "digital dividend" that came about with the switchover from analogue to digital television.

The sector was invited to attend an information session on the organisation of the auction at the BIPT offices on 10 September 2013. The legislative context, the auction rules as well as the auction timing were presented in more details. Interested parties had until today 23 September 2013 to submit their applications.

BIPT received 3 candidacies. The following days BIPT will analyse the admissibility of the applications. On 8 October 2013 the list of admissible candidates shall be published. BIPT is charged by law with the realisation of the auction that shall begin on 12 November 2013.

Three licences are available in total, each comprising 2 x 10 MHz, for a 20-year period. Each lot entails coverage obligations. One of the three licences includes additional obligations as regards the coverage of a number of rural areas. Only one licence can be acquired per candidate. The minimum price per licence amounts to 120 million euros. By means of the frequencies assigned, a licence shall enable its holder to roll out an 800 MHz network and to provide electronic communications services to the customers.

The granting of the user rights is laid down by, among other things, the Electronic Communications Act and in accordance with the 800 MHz Royal Decree. The website www.auction2013.be contains all useful information on the auction procedure.

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