

GSA¹ Response to public consultation regarding use of the 26 GHz frequency band in Norway

GSA appreciates the possibility to comment on the use of the 26 GHz band in Norway. If any additional clarifications are required for this response, please do not hesitate to contact:

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GSA views

The GSA (www.gsacom.com) would like to take this opportunity to offer our views on the licensing of the 26GHz frequency band to enable 5G mmWave deployments in Norway.

- 26 GHz mmWave offers an opportunity for indoor and outdoor mobile services in, for instance, city centers (e.g. busy streets and market squares), localized-areas such as stadiums, railway stations, factories, campuses, shopping centers, etc., as well as fixed wireless access and enterprise/industrial broadband deployments.
- The mmWave market is accelerating globally, as the 26 and 28 GHz bands are assigned, and deployments have started in several countries around the world. In Europe, an increasing number of countries are planning to make mmWave available in 2023. So far, mmWave has been made available in 14 countries (Italy, Spain, Germany, Finland, UK, Denmark, Greece, Sweden, Slovenia, Croatia, Malta, North

¹ The GSA (Global mobile Suppliers Association, <https://gsacom.com>) develops strategies and plans, and contributes studies and technical analysis to international, regional and individual country policymakers and regulators to facilitate the timely availability of spectrum for use by mobile network operators. GSA has a focus group for spectrum topics for technical and regulatory matters of radio spectrum pertaining to the successful evolution of International Mobile Telecommunication (IMT) and associated radiocommunication systems and comprises a team made up of spectrum and regulatory affairs specialists from GSA Executive Member and GSA Member companies. In addition, GSA reports regularly on global spectrum developments.

Macedonia, San Marino, Russia, etc.) and more are in the pipeline in 2023: UK, Estonia and Austria, for example, are in the process of making available the 26 GHz band. With high-speeds and powerful connectivity, 5G mmWave is unleashing new possibilities for mobile communications. Comprehensive information on how mmWave is already transforming societies around the world can be found at the following website at one of GSA member's sponsored website: <https://qualcomm.ft.com/>

- GSA believe that mobile operators are and need to continue being a central part of the spectrum licensing process and market development so that scale can be maximised which benefits the entire ecosystem, including the 'verticals'.
- When it comes to mmWave eco-system development, GSA note that substantial progress has been made in the last few months and we can confirm that infrastructure, chipsets and devices that support the 24.25-27.5 GHz band are available in the marketplace. In particular:
 - 192 operators in 48 countries/territories have been investing in 5G mmWave (testing, trialling, planning, acquiring licences, deploying, or operating networks)
 - 140 operators in 24 countries/territories hold licences enabling mmWave deployment in one of these bands.
 - 28 operators identified as actively deploying mmWave spectrum for 5G in 16 countries/territories.
- When it comes to licensing, GSA supports Nkom's proposal allowing MNOs to be awarded national licenses with a total of 2,400 MHz available in the 25,10-27,50 GHz.
- In addition, GSA welcomes the initiative on preserving the ability of verticals to access 26 GHz spectrum by awarding a total of 850 MHz in the lower part of the 26 GHz range (24,25 - 25,10 GHz) – GSA notes that countries such as Sweden, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Finland, Spain have embarked on similar approaches.

- Furthermore, although the physical nature of the mmWave spectrum is not compatible with licensing obligations such as coverage or commitment of investment GSA is of the view that, in order to assure that no market distortion is artificially created, and spectrum hoarding is not encouraged, specific obligations may be considered such as a commitment to deploy in a given period (e.g., 12-18 months from the licensing moment), “use-it-or-lease-it” or “use-it-or-loose-it”, etc. In case such conditions are included, the regulator should also make sure that the secondary market is sufficiently established to allow for efficient spectrum trading and/or leasing to take place. Any obligations attached to the licensing of these spectrum bands should be known before the licensing and communicate to all interested parties in a fair and transparent manner.
- Last but not least, GSA would like to encourage and request Nkom that the 26 GHz spectrum auction is carried out as soon as possible in 2023.