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# Policy

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## Radiocommunications

Version 2.0

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## Article (1)

### Scope of Document

- 1.1 This document establishes the frequency spectrum management policy of the UAE. It presents the objectives and principles that guide decision making process of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority - TRA when managing frequency spectrum, in accordance with the provisions of the UAE Federal Law by Decree No 3 of 2003 (Telecom Law) as amended and its Executive Order. The Radiocommunications Policy therefore supports the frequency spectrum management process by issuance of the national frequency table and the technical regulations of frequency spectrum management through which users of frequency spectrum may anticipate and understand decisions taken by the TRA.

## Article (2)

### Definitions

- 2.1 The terms, words and phrases used in this Policy shall have the same meaning as is ascribed to them in the UAE Federal Law by Decree No 3 of 2003 (Telecom Law) as amended and its Executive Order; unless this Policy expressly provides otherwise for, or the context in which those terms, words and phrases are used in this Policy indicates otherwise. The following terms and words shall be interpreted, as follows:
- 2.1.1 **“Allocation”** means the entry of a designated frequency or frequency band in the National Frequency Plan for use by one or more users for a terrestrial or space Radiocommunications Service in the UAE.
- 2.1.2 **“Authorization”** or **“Frequency Spectrum Authorization”** means a valid frequency spectrum authorization issued by the TRA and permits the use of radio frequency subject to terms and conditions as stipulated by the TRA.
- 2.1.3 **“Authorized User”** means a Person that has been granted an Authorization by the Authority.
- 2.1.4 **“National Frequency Plan”** means frequency Allocation plan for the UAE.
- 2.1.5 **“Radiocommunication Service”** means the transmitting or receiving of radio frequency which may be used for the conveyance of data, or messages or voice or visual images, or for the operation or control of machinery or apparatus.
- 2.1.6 **“Station”** means one or more transmitters or receivers or a combination of transmitters and receivers, including the accessory equipment,

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necessary at one location for carrying on a Radiocommunication Service.

- 2.1.7 **“Temporary Authorization”** means Frequency Spectrum Authorization issued for a period up to 90 days.
- 2.1.8 **“Authority”** or **“TRA”** means the General Authority for Regulating the Telecommunication Sector of the UAE known as Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) established pursuant to the provisions of Article 6 of Federal Law by Decree No. 3 of 2003 (as amended).
- 2.1.9 **“UAE”** or **“State”** means the United Arab Emirates including its territorial waters and the airspace above.

### Article (3)

#### Objectives

- 3.1 Authority’s objectives for frequency spectrum management are to:
- 3.1.1 Work collaboratively with other stakeholders towards achieving Authority’s vision on the goals to build future shaping, customer happiness and to support innovation for a knowledge-based economy and a cohesive society.
- 3.1.2 Fulfil its roles and responsibilities as established by Federal Law by Decree No 3 of 2003 (Telecom Law) as amended and its Executive Order.
- 3.1.3 Procure the efficient use of frequency spectrum and orbital resources, maximizing the benefits of frequency spectrum use, independent of the type of service for which it may be allocated.
- 3.1.4 Protect the UAE interests on frequency spectrum and wireless Stations through coordination, registration and international participation.
- 3.1.5 Innovate and adopt best practices for frequency spectrum management, which intend to maximize the efficient use of this resource.
- 3.1.6 Promote future shaping and conduct research and planning activities for new wireless technologies and services.
- 3.1.7 Enable investment from the private and public sector for the deployment of wireless infrastructure to enhance wireless services in the UAE for customer happiness.
- 3.1.8 Establish a global leadership position of UAE in the ICT sector.

#### **Article (4)**

### **Frequency Management Rights**

- 4.1 Frequency spectrum is a national resource and shall remain the property of the UAE.
- 4.2 The Authority regulates and manages the frequency spectrum in accordance with the provisions of Federal Law by Decree No 3 of 2003 (Telecom Law) as amended and its Executive Order.
- 4.3 The right to use the frequency spectrum is authorized by the Authority subject to terms and conditions set in applicable regulations.

#### **Article (5)**

### **Powers of Authority regarding Frequency Spectrum Access and Use**

- 5.1 The Authority will exercise the powers granted to it under Federal Law by Decree No 3 of 2003 (Telecom Law) as amended and its Executive Order to carry out the following:
  - 5.1.1 Plan, coordinate and implement strategy in order to define and defend the interests of the UAE in international and regional organizations where frequency spectrum management policy is decided.
  - 5.1.2 Define and issue the National Frequency Plan.
  - 5.1.3 Issue and manage frequency spectrum Authorizations.
  - 5.1.4 Study, plan and implement measures required to avoid Harmful Interference, which may include conducting compatibility and technical studies.
  - 5.1.5 Impose and collect fees in accordance with TRA's Spectrum Fees Regulations.
  - 5.1.6 Monitor the use and control the misuse of frequency spectrum in the UAE.

## **Article (6)**

### **Principles of Frequency Spectrum Management**

- 6.1 The following are the principles that the Authority takes into account in the decision making process when managing frequency spectrum:
- 6.1.1 Achieve transparency and fairness in decision making.
  - 6.1.2 Observe the principle of supply and demand.
  - 6.1.3 Adopt technology and service neutral decisions.
  - 6.1.4 When appropriate, undertake a regulatory impact assessment.
  - 6.1.5 Prioritise national security and the defence needs of the UAE.
  - 6.1.6 Seek the engagement of stakeholders when the decision making process allows it.
  - 6.1.7 Balance the demands of existing and new services.
- 6.2 The TRA may evaluate the applications for the frequency spectrum Authorizations in accordance with the principles of first come, first served, merit contests, cost benefit analysis and/or incentive prices.