

RSPG Chair News Release on 5G Spectrum
10 November 2016

The Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) has launched a strategic roadmap for 5G in Europe, and outlined what spectrum will be needed for future technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and connected cars and trains.

Next generation mobile services (5G) have the potential to bring many benefits to consumers and industry across Europe, including through a number of new services. To enable innovation and investment in these, spectrum is a vital resource.

The building blocks needed for these new wireless services have been identified in a new Opinion adopted by RSPG members,

- Low bandwidth spectrum (700 MHz) which can enable 5G coverage to all areas, ensuring that everyone benefits;
- Medium bandwidth spectrum (3.4-3.8 GHz) which will bring the necessary capacity for new 5G services in urban areas; and
- High bandwidth spectrum (26 GHz) to give ultra-high capacity for innovative new services, enabling new business models and sectors of the economy to benefit from 5G.

In addition, the RSPG has identified the potential for existing mobile bands to use 5G, enabling the transition from the current to the next generation of networks.

These recommendations to policymakers will inform current political initiatives on 5G and spectrum management.

Philip Marnick, Chairman of RSPG, said:

“5G services have the potential to revolutionise communications for everyone. With the RSPG’s strategic vision for 5G spectrum, Europe is in a position to lead the world in deploying future mobile networks, and to drive and achieve global harmonisation.”

The RSPG also agreed draft proposals for the spectrum requirements for IoT and Intelligent Transport Systems (the next generation of road and rail). These will be published shortly for public consultation and input from industry.

Notes for Editors

The Radio Spectrum Policy Group is a high-level advisory group assisting the Commission in the development of radio spectrum policy in the Community. It comprises the relevant expert authorities from EU Member States.

The RSPG’s Opinion on 5G was adopted on 9 November 2016 and can be found here: http://rspg-spectrum.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/RPSG16-032-Opinion_5G.pdf

The European Commission is able to decide on harmonised spectrum use under the Radio Spectrum Decision, based on technical input from CEPT. Common EU priorities and policy guidelines for spectrum management are set out by the Council and Parliament in the multiannual Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP).

Philip Marnick is the Chairman of RSPG during 2016-17. He is also Group Director of Spectrum at Ofcom, the independent regulator and competition authority for the UK communications industries.