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PRESS RELEASE

Consultation on the Licensing of 4G Mobile Services & Liberalisation of Mobile Bands in Gibraltar

The Gibraltar Regulatory Authority's ("GRA") has issued a public consultation on proposals to licence the provision of 4G mobile communications services in Gibraltar. The introduction of 4G mobile is particularly suited to the provision of better mobile data services, faster speeds and improved quality of service, which means that, potentially, broadband delivered over mobile networks could be as good as or, in some circumstances, even better than broadband delivered over the fixed network.

The focus of this consultation is on the process for licensing 4G services in Gibraltar and, in this context, to set out the GRA's plans for the spectrum bands which should be granted access for the provision of 4G services. In this regard, the GRA has considered current spectrum assignments, and has considered what spectrum is available, and how this may best be offered to mobile operators.

In the proposal, contained in the consultation, the GRA has built into the award process a methodology that takes account of the possibility of interest from new operators as well as current mobile operators. The GRA proposes to define a set of service and performance criteria, which all applicants will be expected to meet. Should there be more than three valid applications from suitably qualified bidders, the GRA, after examining the market sustainability of more than three operators, could propose to invite sealed bids setting out detailed business plans and implementation schedules with an aim to award spectrum to the best proposals.

The public consultation is available on the GRA's website.

For further information, please contact Mr Joe Torres, Head of Operations at the GRA, on telephone number 20074636 or email: radio@gra.gi.