

# Arqiva Submission: Ofcom Call for Input ‘Expanding spectrum access for satellite gateways’

Arqiva welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Ofcom Call for Input on making additional spectrum available for satellite gateway use in Q/V and E bands.

Arqiva is a communications, infrastructure and media services company at the heart of the broadcast and utilities sectors in the UK. We deliver broadcast television and radio services nationally and provide satellite data and gateway services. We also provide machine-to-machine connectivity for smart metering within the energy and water sectors.

Set out below is our response to the call for input questions.

## **Response to call for input questions**

### **Question 1**

*Do you plan to use Q/V and/or E bands for gateways in the UK? Please provide further detail as follows:*

*a) Which bands are you planning to use?*

*b) When and for what purposes?*

*c) How much spectrum do you anticipate will be needed in each band referred to in 1a) (indicating the total uplink and total downlink spectrum required)? Please provide evidence to support your capacity estimation.*

*d) If you anticipate needing access to both Q/V and E band please explain the reasons. Provide supporting evidence explaining how you determine how much spectrum will be required for future gateways, and how this demand changes over time.*

*e) What factors would influence your decision to place one or more gateway(s) in the UK? How many gateway locations do you anticipate needing in the UK for each of the frequency bands referred to in 1a). Why?*

Arqiva is supportive of this call for input around potentially expanding access to spectrum for use by satellite gateway earth stations. Arqiva is an established provider of satellite gateway earth station operations in the UK.

Although we do not directly operate the satellites involved, we are happy and keen to engage with those customers that are already established in providing services and with those that are yet to commence their services.

Arqiva has already discussed the use of additional spectrum as proposed by Ofcom with a number of both existing and potential future customers and so welcomes Ofcom’s consideration of these potential changes. We will leave it to the satellite service providers to respond with any details of their business proposition and development plans as they see fit.

## **Question 2**

*To help us understand the services that the gateways will support, please provide the following information:*

- a) Which downstream services do you anticipate serving with Q/V or E band gateways deployed in the UK?*
- b) For each service in your answer to 2a) please explain which, if any, of these services will be available in the UK and who they would serve.*
- c) For your response to 2b) please indicate when these services are expected to become available globally and to UK consumers.*
- d) Are gateways in the UK required in order to serve UK consumers? If not, do you have plans for gateways (which will use Q/V/E) in other countries, which could be used to serve the UK?*
- e) Do you plan to deploy gateways in the UK to serve consumers in countries other than the UK? If yes, please provide reasons for this approach.*
- f) Are there any other identifiable benefits to UK people and businesses of locating gateways in the UK? If so, please provide evidence of this.*

As with our response to question 1, we are happy and keen to work with satellite service customers for these potential developments and will leave it to the satellite service providers to respond with any details of their business proposition and development plans.

## **Question3**

*Do you have any information on gateways that are planned to be deployed in the UK in the Q/V bands including technical parameters? If so, please provide details.*

As with our response to question 1, we are happy and keen to work with satellite service customers for these potential developments on Arqiva's existing sites where we already have satellite gateway earth stations and potentially in the development of further sites to meet customer requirements. We will leave it to the satellite service providers to respond with any details of their business proposition and development plans.

## **Question 4**

*Do you have any comments on the spectrum sharing considerations set out for the gateway downlink and uplink in the Q/V bands? If so, please provide details.*

Arqiva has no comment in response to this question at this time.

## **Question 5**

*Do you have any additional information which could facilitate our consideration of coexistence between gateway uplink/downlink and other services in the Q/V band and adjacent bands, as appropriate? If so, please provide details.*

Arqiva has no comment in response to this question at this time.

## **Question 6**

*What are your views on enabling NGSO gateway earth stations to access the 51.4 – 52.4 GHz band before WRC-27 concludes?*

Arqiva has no comment in response to this question at this time.

## **Question 7**

*What are your views on initially enabling access to 37.5 – 40.5 GHz for gateways, with a later consideration of the 40.5 – 43.5 GHz frequency range? Do you consider 42.5 – 43.5 GHz to be usable in the uplink?*

Arqiva has no comment in response to this question at this time.

## **Question 8**

*Do you have any information on gateways that are planned to be deployed in the UK in E band including technical parameters? If so, please provide details.*

As with our response to question 1, we are happy and keen to work with satellite service customers for these potential developments on Arqiva's existing sites where we already have satellite gateway earth stations and potentially in the development of further sites to meet customer requirements. We will leave it to the satellite service providers to respond with any details of their business proposition and development plans.

## **Question 9**

*Do you have any comments on the spectrum sharing considerations set out for the gateway downlink and uplink in E band? If so, please provide details.*

Arqiva has no comment in response to this question at this time.

## **Question 10**

*Do you have any additional information which could facilitate our consideration of coexistence between gateway uplink/downlink and other services in E band and adjacent bands, as appropriate? If so, please provide details.*

Arqiva has no comment in response to this question at this time.

## **Question 11**

*What are your views on considering enabling gateways to use E band before WRC-27 concludes?*

Arqiva has no comment in response to this question at this time.

## **Question 12**

*Are there any other points that you deem would be helpful in our consideration of Q/V and E bands for future gateways? In providing your response, please include as much supporting evidence as you can.*

Arqiva has no further comments at this time.



## About Arqiva

Arqiva is a leading UK communications service and infrastructure provider serving multiple industries.

We operate at the forefront of the UK broadcast industry, enabling our customers to reach and engage audiences across technologies and platforms for watching TV and other content. We deliver a range of products and services for the management and distribution of content at-scale, both in the UK and internationally. We are also a UK critical national infrastructure operator, managing the digital terrestrial television (DTT) network and broadcast radio network that ensures the universal availability of a wide range of free-to-air TV and radio services. Our customers include UK public service broadcasters, as well as a wide range of commercial TV and radio providers, which deliver news, information, education, and entertainment across the entire UK.

We are dedicated to supporting and advancing the UK's broadcast and streaming industries, ensuring that our customers can deliver their content to audiences wherever they are and however they choose to watch – with services meeting the highest standards for user experience, reliability, and security.

We provide satellite Direct to Home, (DTH) broadcast services as well as data and gateway services. We also provide machine-to-machine connectivity for smart metering within the energy and water sectors.