

# Arqiva Submission: Ofcom Consultation Expanding spectrum access for satellite gateways in the 28 GHz band

Arqiva welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Ofcom consultation on Expanding spectrum access for satellite gateways in the 28 GHz band.

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 and other utilities communications requirements within the energy and water sectors.

Set out below is our response to the consultation questions.

## **Background – Arqiva use of 28GHz band spectrum**

Arqiva has a number of locations licensed by Ofcom in the 28 GHz band spectrum. These are already licensed for use in providing gateway services for earth to satellite communications for non-geostationary satellite orbit network operators. As such, Arqiva is already well placed to provide any further similar services contemplated in this consultation for expanding spectrum access for further satellite gateways in the 28 GHz band.

## **Response to consultation questions**

### ***Question 1***

*Do you agree with our proposal to open access to the bands shown in Table 1 for satellite gateway use under the existing NGSO gateway and PES licences with the associated licensing process and fees? Are there other uses of these frequencies which you would prefer to be authorised in these bands?*

Arqiva recognises the changes that Ofcom has proposed to implement in moving away from one national licence with Administered Incentive Pricing to a more pragmatic approach that allows geographical separation of NGSO gateways.

Currently there are no other uses of these frequencies that Arqiva would prefer to be authorised in these bands.

## **Question 2**

*Do you agree with our initial assessment that our proposals would benefit citizens and consumers and would not materially affect existing users of the 28 GHz band as well as future users of the unassigned spectrum?*

Arqiva is keen that Ofcom will ensure that any licensing of additional use of the 28GHz spectrum for the benefit of citizens and consumers will not impact the existing gateway use of the 28GHz spectrum.

We acknowledge that this is addressed in the NGSO licensing process that was introduced by Ofcom in December 2021 and has been subsequently updated – most recently in September 2023. We are keen that the assessments provided by network and gateway operators are validated thoroughly for any additional network or gateway use in line with the assessments for co-existence with existing systems and future systems that are included in the NGSO earth station licensing process.

## **Question 3**

*Do you have further views / comments that you wish to make in respect of this consultation?*

Arqiva continues to be supportive of the provision of NGSO earth stations for citizens and consumers and will continue to look to collaborate with relevant companies in the provision of the suitable sites and operations for businesses to provide these services.