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**Consultation Response: 3G and 2 GHz Licence Variation**

Sir,

Inmarsat has the pleasure to respond to Ofcom's consultation on the '*Application for a variation to 3G licences (and consequent proposal to vary draft 2 GHz MSS/CGC Base station licences)*'. The consultation document proposes to increase the maximum permitted in-band EIRP to 68 dBm for CGC base stations in the 2 GHz band. I am pleased to confirm that Inmarsat supports the proposed variation. In addition, the 2 GHz stations are located in spectrum contiguous to the 3G licence holders, which will minimise the risk of harmful interference being caused to other users.

**2 GHz Summary**

The 2 GHz Decision<sup>1</sup> (2009/449/EC) of 13 May 2009, provided Inmarsat Ventures Limited with rights to deploy a pan-European MSS/CGC network in the 2 GHz band<sup>2</sup>. The scope of the CGC element is explained in EC Decision 626/2008/EC (18)<sup>3</sup> where it is substantiated that '*complementary ground components are an integral part of a mobile satellite system...*'.

Ofcom's policy statement on CGC authorisation<sup>4</sup> recognised that the CGC component can be used to enhance the flexibility of the MSS/CGC network and allow for innovation to be carried out within the lifetime of the satellite. Increasing the permitted power level of the CGC base stations will ensure that the opportunities for innovation are maximised.

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<sup>1</sup> COMMISSION DECISION of 13 May 2009 on the selection of operators of pan-European systems providing mobile satellite services (MSS) (notified under document number C(2009) 3746) (2009/449/EC).

<sup>2</sup> Inmarsat was awarded rights to the bands: 1980 - 1995 MHz and 2170 - 2185 MHz.

<sup>3</sup> DECISION No 626/2008/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 30 June 2008 on the selection and authorisation of systems providing mobile satellite services (MSS).

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*

## **Flexible Use of Spectrum**

Varying the in-band EIRP limit is consistent with the 2 GHz licensing statement<sup>5</sup>. The increase in flexibility afforded by increasing the maximum permitted power is consistent with sections 4 and 5; whereas section 6.38 enables the review of power limits for CGC base stations.

Due regard must also be given to the spectrum fee. The levy should be set at a level that does not hinder the deployment of CGC – and reflects the balance of rights and obligations taken on by MSS/CGC network operators. Ofcom's 2 GHz policy statement sets a pragmatic tone in this regard, and notes that this situation will be monitored.

## **Summary**

Inmarsat supports the proposed increase in the power limits to 68 dBm EIRP, and notes that the increased flexibility which this will afford the CGC component is in line with Ofcom's policy position as expressed in the 2 GHz licensing statement<sup>6</sup>.

The potential for harmful interference to be caused to users of adjacent bands from higher power CGC base stations can be discounted - Inmarsat's 2 GHz spectrum is contiguous to the spectrum used for mobile and MSS/CGC operations which would also be subject to this licence variation.

With increased base station powers operating in terrestrial mobile networks in the band 2110-2170 MHz, the risk of Inmarsat MESs operating in the adjacent band 2170-2185 MHz being blocked may be increased - this may be offset by the increased flexibility afforded to the deployment of CGC base stations.

Inmarsat supports the proposal to apply the limits to CGC networks in the 2 GHz bands and thanks Ofcom for this opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,

James Cemmell  
Policy Advisor

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<sup>5</sup> Authorisation of terrestrial mobile networks complementary to 2 GHz mobile satellite systems (MSS) Statement published 17/07/09; retrieved from:

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/cgcs2/statement/2ghzstatement.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.*