

## Business Radio Trading and Liberalisation



Western Power Distribution (WPD) is responsible for delivering power to 2.4M customers living in the South West of England and South Wales. Its network covers some of the most beautiful & diverse terrain in the UK, from highly populated urban areas to remote rural areas such as Dartmoor and the Brecon Beacons.

WPD aims to give them excellent service, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In support of this aim to provide excellent customer service WPD is one of the few UK utilities that still owns and manages a Trunked Private Mobile Radio (PMR) system.

### **WPD would like to make the following comments on Ofcom's consultations "Business radio Trading & Liberalisation" and "Modifications to Spectrum Pricing"**

- WPD is actively investigating replacing its ageing PMR system. As a Regulated Business WPD feels that such an increase in License fees (+120%) positively discourages WPD from replacing it with another private radio system.
- As a Licensee subject to such a large increase WPD feels that the existing fees should be capped at the Governments inflation target of 2.5% or, at very least, WPD should retain reserve rights to the current fee for a minimum of 5 years.
- WPD also feels that the proposed technically assigned licence regime mitigates against spectrum efficient trunked radio systems such as presently in use by WPD and being actively considered as a replacement system for both its Regions.
- To make the Licensing costs for WPD, and other regions, more equitable Licensees should be able to buy area assigned licences in smaller lots than the currently proposed areas of England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, such as 50km x 50km trading squares, or regionally defined areas.
- Considering the recent ruling by the UK privacy regulator the Information Commissioner, WPD feels that it must be able to have an Agent's licence details in the public licensing database to avoid exposing sensitive assignment details to the general public.