

Organised by

PolicyTracker

Middle East Spectrum Conference

A Two Day Conference
29 September - 30 September 2009
Hotel Intercontinental, Muscat, Oman



The key issues in spectrum management in the region, analysed by experts from around the world

Topics

- Replanning GSM networks
- Balancing government and private uses of spectrum
- Managing analogue TV switchover
- The role of spectrum in boosting economic growth
- Environmental issues
- Stimulating broadband access
- Future spectrum trends
- Spectrum border coordination

Who should attend

- Policy makers
- Spectrum managers
- Spectrum regulators
- Mobile operators
- Broadcasters
- Public sector spectrum users
- Military spectrum users
- Environmental and health experts

Speakers

- Professor Martin Cave, Warwick University Business School
- Naashiah Saud Al-Kharusi, Telecoms Regulatory Authority of Oman
- Robert Touret, Special Assistant, Spectrum Refarming, ANFR
- Tom Phillips, Head of Regulatory Affairs, GSMA
- Dr. Amer Al-Rawas, CEO, Oman Telecommunications Company
- Dr. Georg Schoene, board member, LS Telcom



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The Conference

This conference will take a solutions-orientated approach to spectrum management and is the first event of its kind specifically devoted to the Middle East. The sessions have been specially designed to reflect the concerns of the region.

The event has been organised in collaboration with the Telecoms Regulatory Authority in Oman with the aim of identifying the key issues and setting out the solutions which have emerged from the latest research and from experience in other countries. The speakers are all acknowledged experts in their field, drawn from a wide range of backgrounds including government, regulators and academia.

This is a high level event which will be opened by His Excellency Mohammed bin Nasir Al Khasibi, the Chairman of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Oman.

The event includes numerous networking opportunities and will include a dinner on the evening of Tuesday 29 September.

To find out more please contact Martin Sims or Yousuf Al Belushi: contact details on the left.

The Supporters

Telecoms Regulatory Authority of Oman

The TRA was established in 2002 to liberalize and promote telecoms services in the Sultanate of Oman. It is committed to ensuring that consumers receive services of an international standard with a reasonable range of choices at reasonable prices. TRA has made available the required logistical support needed for the success of this conference. Engineer Yousuf Al Belushi, Senior Manager spectrum management of TRA Oman is the spokesperson of the conference and will be reporting the daily discussions of the conference to the press.

The Organisers

PolicyTracker is the online and printed journal of spectrum management (see www.policytracker.com). We have hundreds of subscribers around the world and organise conferences and training courses featuring recognised experts from industry, regulatory bodies and academia.

The Sponsors

Platinum

Omantel and Oman Mobile: Omantel is the leading telecoms company in Oman, providing fixed phone, Internet and data services. Oman Mobile was the Sultanate's first Mobile operator. It provides services to up to 1.7 million subscribers and has a state-of-the-art 3.5G network.

Kleos: Kleos is a Mobile Broadband systems development company specialized in designing and operating Mobile Broadband Wireless Access solutions.



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Nawras: Omani mobile operator, Nawras, is the customer-friendly communications provider, offering great value, a pleasingly different service and excellent quality.

Bronze

Rohde & Schwarz: Rohde & Schwarz is an internationally active company in the fields of test and measurement, information technology and communications.

Ericsson: Ericsson is the longest-serving global telecom supplier in Oman, having worked on over 100 projects.

LS telcom: LS telcom specialises in software solutions and consulting services for civilian and non-civilian spectrum management and radio network planning for all kinds of wireless technologies.



His Excellency
Mohammed Al Khasibi



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The Agenda DAY 1: 29 September 2009

8.15 - 9.00

Registration

9.00 - 9.10

1. Opening ceremony: speech by His Excellency Mohammed Al Khasibi

Mohammed Al Khasibi is Chairman of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Oman and is at the same time the Secretary General of the Ministry of National Economy

9.10 - 9.20

2. Conference agenda presentation by Eng Yousuf Al Belushi, Senior Manager Spectrum Management Unit, TRA, Oman

9.20 - 9.30

Break

9.30 - 10.10

3. Keynote address: Professor Martin Cave - the benefits of spectrum liberalisation

Professor Martin Cave of Warwick University is regarded as the architect of spectrum liberalisation in UK whose reports for the government laid the foundation for a market-orientated approach. In this presentation Professor Cave will explain how liberalisation can benefit national economies and suggest ways in which it can be implemented.

10.10 - 10.30

Refreshment break

10.30 - 12.30

4. Replanning GSM networks

In some Gulf countries finding a way of re-assigning spectrum to allow further competition in the mobile networks is a key challenge. How can this be achieved without destroying business models for incumbent operators yet fulfilling the promise of better and cheaper services for consumers? This session will examine these issues as well as considering relevant case studies from other countries.

Chair: **Dr. Amer Al-Rawas**, CEO, Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel)

Estimating the cost of replanning GSM networks

Val Jervis, Aegis systems

Cross border co-ordination for GSM and UMTS network

Regulatory speaker TBC

France: effective use of the refarming fund

Robert Touret, ANFR

Tackling the economic and practical issues raised by refarming the GSM and UMTS bands

Tom Phillips, Head of Regulatory Affairs, GSMA

Self regulation can work: refarming the GSM bands in Sweden

Rolf Johannson, Director spectrum office, PTS

12.30 - 2.00

Lunch

2.00 - 3.10

5. Broadband for all

Ubiquitous broadband is seen as a necessity for any country seeking leadership in the digital economy. But how can this be achieved and what role can wireless networks play? This session will examine the policy initiatives which are stimulating the growth of wireless broadband.

Chair: **His Excellency Dr Mohammed Ali Al-Wahaibi**, Under Secretary for Communications, Ministry of Transport & Communications

Generic licensing: the WAPECs initiative

Isolde Goggin, Rapporteur for the WAPECs working group

The importance of technology and service neutrality

Turhan Muluk, Standards and Regulation, Intel Corporation

Broadband networks for the military

Dr Robert Morton, Logica

Cross border co-ordination for WiMAX and Tetra networks

John Berry, InterConnect Communications

Towards a successful regional broadband spectrum policy

Eng Yousuf Al Belushi, Senior Manager spectrum management, TRA, Oman

3.10 - 3.30

6. Keynote address: Dr Amer Al-Rawas - Spectrum Management Challenges and Opportunities

Dr. Amer Al-Rawas, the Chief Executive Officer of the Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel) will give an operators perspective on the spectrum policy issues in the region.

3.30 - 3.45

Refreshment break

3.45 - 5.00

7. The benefits of analogue TV switchover

Managing a speedy transition to digital terrestrial broadcasting promises many benefits. It can free up as much as 100 MHz - providing a solid basis for new mobile or wireless broadband services. Furthermore digital terrestrial TV services can offer many new channels as well as competition for other TV platforms like satellite. This session will focus on policy initiatives to optimise the transition process.

Chair: **Tariq Al-Awadhi** Executive Director, Spectrum and International Affairs, Telecoms Regulatory Authority, UAE

Europe's approach to the digital dividend

Amit Nagpal, Analysys Mason

How Finland completed digital switchover

Mr Tauno Äijälä, Ministry of Transport and Telecoms

Planning for digital terrestrial television

Phil Laven, European Broadcasting Union

The economics of the digital dividend

Simon Forge, SCF Associates

5.00

close

The Agenda DAY 2: 30 September 2009

9.00 – 10.30

1. Increasing flexibility in spectrum management

Several countries, including the UK, US, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden and the Netherlands have implemented a more flexible and market-orientated approach to spectrum management. These include auctions; spectrum pricing; technology and service neutral licensing; and greater self-regulation. This session will examine how these policies can stimulate competition, encourage new services and reduce the regulatory burden.

Chair: Eng. **Mr. Ross Cormack**, CEO, Omani Qatari telecommunication company (Nawras)

Research on the economic benefits of liberalisation

Andrew Wright, Partner Analysys Mason

US spectrum management reforms

Dr Robert Pepper, Vice President and Senior Managing Director, Global Technology Policy Cisco Systems, Inc

Priorities for spectrum policy in the region

Regional regulator TBC

The benefits of liberalisation for the mobile sector

Richard Feasey, Public Policy Director, Vodafone

Spectrum auctions: principles and preparation

Dr Chris Doyle, Apex Consulting

10.30 – 10.45

Refreshment break

10.45 – 11.10

2. Keynote address: **Naashiah Saud Al-Kharusi**

The balance between government and private uses of spectrum -

Naashiah Saud Al-Kharusi is a member of the Oman Telecoms Regulatory Authority and will give a Gulf perspective on public sector spectrum.

11.10 – 12.45

3. Making better use of public sector spectrum

In most countries about 50% of the most valuable spectrum is used by public services, principally the military. A key recent development has been policies designed to encourage more efficient use of these frequencies along with greater commercial access to public sector bands. This session will look at strategies for achieving these goals.

Chair: Eng. **Mr Mamoun Balqar**, Vice chairman/commissioner Telecoms Regulatory Commission of Jordan

Netherlands: the justification approach to military spectrum

Peter Bakker, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Netherlands

Using market mechanisms to drive efficiency in military spectrum

Steve Jones, Ministry of Defence, UK

The benefits of improving public sector spectrum efficiency

Susan Sweet, Senior Consultant, **Mott MacDonald**

Harmonising and sharing military bands

John Burns, Aegis Systems

Use of spectrum for emergency services and disaster relief

ITU representative TBC

12.45 – 2.00

Lunch

2.00 – 3.20

4. Spectrum and environmental issues

Maximising the benefits of the wireless sector depends partly on dealing with the environmental concerns which have arisen in recent years. New mobile networks cannot be built unless the public is satisfied that there is no health risk. New services require new equipment and governments are becoming increasingly concerned about the safe disposal of the legacy equipment, ranging from transmitters to mobile handsets.

Chair: **Dr. Elsayed Azzouz**, Director of Radio Spectrum Planning Division, National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority, Egypt.

Taking an environmental perspective on the whole communications industry

Dr. Colin Forster, Plextek Limited

A scientific perspective on health and the mobile industry

Dr Maha Shehab, Ministry of Health, Bahrain and participant in World Health Organization study on Electromagnetic Fields

Overcoming the challenges posed by the disposal of radio equipment

Speaker TBC, Ericsson

3.20 – 3.30

Refreshment break

3.30 - 3.45

6. Keynote address: **Dr Georg Schoene** Spectrum Management 2020: What can be expected from Spectrum Management Techniques during the next decade?

Dr Schoene is a board member at LS Telcom.

3.45– 5.00

7. Future trends in spectrum: an industry perspective

Much of the innovation in the communications sector depends on access to spectrum. These speakers will identify key emerging technologies, the services they can offer and how their spectrum needs can be met.

This session will end with a group discussion
Chair: **Eng. Habeeb K. Al Shankiti** CEO, Deputy governor for spectrum affairs, Communications and Information Technology Commissions, Kingdom of Saudia Arabia

What are the spectrum requirements for LTE?

Jeremy Foster, Ericsson

New developments in transport services and machine to machine communications

Steve Methley, Quotient Associates Ltd

Cognitive radio in Europe and the Middle East

Zeina Mokaddem, Abu Dhabi office, Access Partnership

Meeting the needs of the unlicensed sector

Robert Horvitz, Open Spectrum Foundation

The development of lburst

George El Aily, CEO, KLEOS

5.00

close

The *Location*



Hotel *Intercontinental* Muscat

The conference is being held in the luxurious surroundings of the Hotel Intercontinental in Muscat. This is a 35-acre oasis in the heart of the city's premier residential, government and diplomatic quarter. It overlooks the beach and boasts two swimming pools, a gym, an aerobics studio and six outdoor floodlit tennis courts. There are six restaurants catering for a wide range of tastes. The business and commercial district is close by, as are must-see sights including the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, Bait Al Zubair Museum, Amouage Perfume Factory and the traditional Muttrah Souk or market.

About *Oman*

Muscat, the capital of Oman, is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful cities in the Middle East, with the historic old town complemented by prestigious new developments. Muscat nestles between the sea and the Eastern Hajar mountains, boasting several stunning beaches. Other attractions include several restored forts dating back to the sixteenth century, as well as traditional markets (known as souqs) and folk museums. Oman prides itself on an aesthetically pleasing blend of the traditional and the modern, so Muscat is also home to a range of luxury hotels and upmarket restaurants where the most sophisticated traveller will feel at home.

The average temperature in Muscat in September is 30°C and the currency in Oman is the Rial.



Booking Form

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Terms and Conditions

Course Fees: Standard fees for the conference are £650. All delegate fees must be paid by the due date stated on the invoice. All bookings are provisional and will only be confirmed once payment has been received. Policy Tracker (the organisers) reserve the right to reallocate places if full payment has not been received. Delegates are responsible for the payment of accommodation and all other expenses incurred within the venue. These costs should be settled by the delegate directly with the venue.

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