



CICRA media release

10 April 2014

4G moves one step closer in the Channel Islands

CICRA (the Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities) has commenced the competition for 4G spectrum bringing it one step closer to the Channel Islands.

CICRA has published an information notice announcing the start of the competitive process. The result of the competition will be a number of recommendations on how the spectrum for 4G will be allocated to successful applicants in the Channel Islands.

Once the successful operators have the ability to offer 4G services, local consumers will be able to use their smart phones to their full potential while looking forward to much faster mobile internet speeds.

Details of the rules and requirements to take part are available in an invitation to bid which sets out the spectrum to be made available with the terms and conditions for the operators wishing to tender.

Applicants have been given until 4th of June to put together their best case for receiving a spectrum award. CICRA will evaluate these submissions and rank them, then submit its recommendation to Ofcom, the licensing authority for spectrum.

4G technology means operators can offer services that allow for greater capacity when transmitting data, with the latest devices designed to use these to provide the latest mobile services to islanders.

CICRA interim chief executive, Michael Byrne, said: “We are focussed on ensuring that the right tenders come forward for the award of this radio spectrum so that customers benefit most from these new technologies in the Channel Islands. Competitive processes have been underway in a number of countries for similar spectrum and the Channel Islands are now preparing to launch these technologies also.”

“We will also be addressing the issue of roaming charges for the provision for 4G services which has been a long standing problem for mobile customers using 3G. It is even more vital this is addressed now given the potential amounts of data 4G is designed to deliver over the airways.”

Organisations interested in applying for one of the three spectrum bundles on offer on this occasion need to obtain an invitation to bid (ITB), contact details are set out in the information notice published today.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS:

All enquiries should be directed in writing to CICRA Chief Executive Interim, Michael Byrne, in Guernsey at the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority, Suites B1 & B2, Hirzel Court, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 2NH or in Jersey at the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Salisbury House, 1 - 9 Union Street, St Helier, Jersey JE2 3RF. Alternatively email info@cicra.gg.

About CICRA:

The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities or 'CICRA' is the name given to the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) and the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority (GCRA) (formerly the Office of Utility Regulation). The JCRA was established under the Competition Regulatory Authority (Jersey) Law, 2001, and the GCRA was established under The Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2012. In Jersey, the telecoms and postal sectors are regulated by the JCRA, which is also responsible for administering and enforcing the Competition (Jersey) Law 2005. In Guernsey the telecoms, postal and electricity sectors are regulated by the GCRA, which is also responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Guernsey competition law since it came into force on 1 August 2012.

By working together and sharing resources and expertise between the islands, CICRA strives to ensure that consumers in all the Channel Islands receive best value, choice and access to high quality services.