
Press release

5G

The companies Bouygues Telecom, Free Mobile, Orange and SFR have all submitted a tender package to Arcep for the award of licences to use frequencies in the 3.4 – 3.8 GHz band in Metropolitan France

Wednesday, 26 February 2020

Four companies submitted a tender package as part of the process to obtain licences to use 3.4 – 3.8 GHz band frequencies in Metropolitan France, before the deadline of 12 pm on 25 February 2020:

- Bouygues Telecom;
- Free Mobile;
- Orange;
- SFR.

All four candidates have stipulated their desire to obtain one of the four blocks of 50 MHz that will be awarded in exchange for the commitments set forth in the procedure.

Companies that did not submit a bid package will not be able to participate in the award procedure for the blocks of 50 MHz, nor in the procedure for allocating the frequencies that remain available after this first stage.






Arcep will now examine the candidates' tender packages. It will ensure that they comply with the procedure's eligibility and qualification criteria, then draw up the list of qualified candidates for the first stage of the process, dedicated to awarding the blocks of 50 MHz. Once this examination is complete, Arcep will publish the list of the candidates that are eligible to participate in the spectrum auctions, along with the results of the 50 MHz block allocation stage.

The frequencies that remain available after this first stage, dedicated to awarding the blocks of 50 MHz, will then be awarded through a financial bid auction that will take place in April, so that the licences can be awarded in June 2020 at the latest.

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Annex: The optional commitments

The specifications contain a set of optional commitments. A maximum four candidates that have each made all of the following commitments will be able to obtain blocks of 50 MHz of spectrum:

- **5G to foster competitiveness in other sectors of the French economy**

To lay the groundwork for enterprises' future connectivity, Arcep has established an unprecedented mechanism that would have operators commit to granting reasonable requests from economic actors (business, local authorities, administrations...) by providing them with customised solutions in terms of coverage and performance or, if the operator prefers, by assigning its frequencies locally.

- **Indoor coverage**

Arcep has also provided for commitments that seek to improve indoor coverage for business and commercial purposes, and to facilitate coverage by multiple operators.

- **Fixed access products**

Commitments also concern the supply of dedicated fixed access products on mobile networks.

- **Greater transparency**

The commitments include increasing operators' transparency, both on their rollout forecasts and service outages.

- **Bolster innovation and competition**

Lastly, commitments are proposed to improve MVNO hosting on operators' 5G networks, in particular to stimulate innovation from all the sector's players.






Arcep at a glance

The Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications, Postal Affairs and Print Media Distribution (Arcep), a neutral and expert arbitrator with the status of independent administrative authority (IAA), is the architect and guardian of internet, fixed and mobile telecoms and postal networks in France

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