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## **National Communications Authority**

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### **NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY RELEASES ROADMAP AND INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR SALE OF SPECTRUM IN THE 800MHZ BAND (DIGITAL DIVIDEND)**

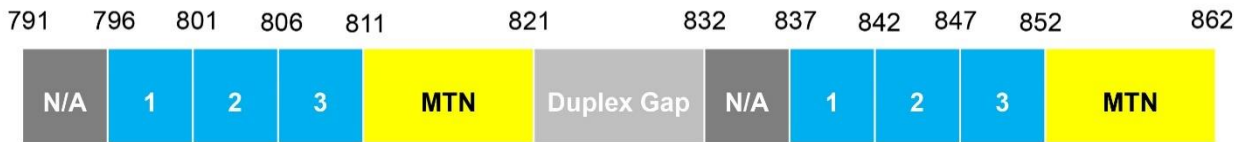
The National Communications Authority (NCA) has released the Roadmap for the sale of Spectrum in the 800 MHz Band and is inviting applications from eligible Entities registered under the Ghana Companies Code, 1963, Act 179 for the grant of a licence to establish, maintain and operate Mobile Services in the 800 MHz band.

The objectives for this sale:

- Making valuable spectrum available for the provision of mobile data and voice services to improve access and service quality whilst facilitating the diffusion of information and communication technologies in enhancing the socio-economic development of the country.
- Generating revenue for the State to cover some of the costs of the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting including the cost of rolling out a nationwide DTT network to carry programme channels of the state broadcaster and other private Free-to-Air (FTA) terrestrial TV stations.
- Providing a means of growth for existing internet data service providers and to facilitate the attainment of universal access to internet data services.
- Providing opportunities for participation by indigenous Ghanaians in the telecom industry.

It will be recalled that in 2015, the Authority undertook an auction and sold off one Block of Spectrum in the 800MHz band which was acquired by MTN Ghana.

Although the initial Spectrum Auction in 2015 made available two (2) Blocks of 2 x 10 out of which one (1) Block was sold, the Authority, this time, would make available three (3) Blocks of 2 x 5MHz. Applicants can bid for up to two lots of 2x5MHz. See Figure 1 below:



**Figure 1 – Frequency Band Plan showing the three (3) available frequency slots**

The earlier 2015 Auction was also done in line with the principles of fairness as the Auction was opened to all existing operators and new entrants. The process, this time, will not be done through an auction but through a **competitive tendering process**.

In the initial request for application, the Authority would offer 3 lots of 2x5MHz each to all interested entities (excluding entities who already hold any part of the 800 MHz band) at a determined NCA Asking Price (NAP). Applicants will be required to make their Best Price Offer (BPO) in relation to the NAP. The BPOs will be ranked after which the Authority will negotiate with the top three (3) to determine the negotiated Licence Fee. The Authority’s asking price for the spectrum was derived from the value of the last auction.

In the event that negotiations with all applicants are unsuccessful, the Authority will conclude the process and invite the operator with an existing assignment in the 800MHz band to make an offer for the available lots after which the Authority will negotiate licence fee which shall be greater than or equal to the fee that the applicants failed to match during the unsuccessful negotiations.

The sale of the spectrum, the NCA believes, would give all entities and Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) who elect to be part of this process, the opportunity to have some spectrum to offer Competitive services and strengthen the playing field in line with the principles of fairness.

The Roadmap for the sale of the three (3) available slots in the 800 MHz Band is as follows:

Tasks	
1	Press Release Announcing the Licencing Process
2	Submission of Applications
3	Opening of Applications and Ranking of Best Price Offer
4	Review of Offers
5	Financial Negotiation with Eligible Applicants
6	Announcement of outcome of Licence Process
7	Payment of Licence Fees

The sale of the Spectrum is in line with Section 58 of Electronic Communications Act 2008, Act 775 on Spectrum Management which highlights the NCA's mandate and the options for Frequency Assignment:

- Section 58(3) of Act 775 states that The Authority shall allocate the uses of the spectrum of the electronic communications sector in a manner that promotes the economic and orderly utilisation of frequencies by electronic communications networks and services.
- Section 58(8) of the Act 775 provides options for award of frequency to applicants:
  - through auction,
  - through tender,
  - at a fixed price, or
  - based on stated criteria

The NCA is optimistic that the approach taken will offer existing service providers the opportunity to acquire portions of the 800 MHz to give their customers enhanced services and create choices within the ecosystem. The Authority will ensure that the Spectrum is sold within the shortest possible timeframe to raise funds for Government, through the Ministry of Communications to complete the DTT Migration.

Any amendments to the Roadmap and updates will be duly communicated to the general public. The deadline for receipt of Applications is on or before 5:00 p.m. on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.

The document for the Request for Applications for Spectrum Licences in the 800MHz Band can be picked up from the Front Desk of the NCA Offices nationwide. Please see overleaf the list of NCA offices.

It is expected that the process will be concluded by 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2018.

*Issued by the National Communications Authority,*

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*Date – Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2018*

**CONTACTS OF NCA OFFICES**

<b>NAME OF OFFICE</b>	<b>REGION</b>	<b>POSTAL ADDRESS</b>	<b>PHYSICAL ADDRESS</b>	<b>DIGITAL ADDRESS</b>	<b>TELEPHONE CONTACT</b>
Sekondi – Takoradi Zonal Office	Western Region, Sekondi	P. O. Box SL 409 Sekondi,	Bakado, 3km Away from the Prisons (R.S.K. Barnes Ct, Sekondi – Takoradi)	WS – 014 – 8190	031 20 – 28069 031 20 – 28063 031 20 – 28049
Bolgatanga Zonal Office	Upper East Region, Bolgatanga	PMB, Bolgatanga, Upper East	Zorbisi Zaare Residential Area in Bolgatanga Municipality	UB-0034-8536	0382-021141
Eastern Regional Office, Koforidua	Eastern Region, Koforidua,	PMB, Koforidua Eastern Region	Plot No. 31, Sector 5 Block C along the Galloway Road	EN-001-4621	03420-28380 03420-28382
Ashanti Regional Office, Kumasi	Ashanti Region, Kumasi	P. O. Box KS 10768 Kumasi	Fuller Road, Danyame, Kumasi	AK – 063 - 2250	0322020014/18
Northern Regional Office, Tamale	Northern Region, Tamale	P. O. Box TL1590 Tamale	Watherson Residential Area	NT0027-8191	0372028105/4
Volta Regional Office, Ho	Volta Region, Ho	P. O. Box HP 1576 Ho, Volta Region	Plot No. 75, Stadium Road, Kabore Junction	VH-0006-0554	036 202 6339
Brong Ahafo Regional Office, Sunyani	Brong Ahafo Region, Sunyani	P. O. Box SY 125, Sunyani,	Plot No. 114 Ridge Residential Area, Sector 5	BS-0032-6614	03520-27564