

RESOLUTION ITU-R 59

Studies on availability of frequency bands and/or tuning ranges¹ for worldwide and/or regional harmonization and conditions for their use by terrestrial electronic news gathering² systems

(2012)

The Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a)* that some administrations may have different operational needs and spectrum requirements for electronic news gathering, depending on the usage;
- b)* that the use of terrestrial portable and transportable radio equipment by services ancillary to broadcasting, commonly described as electronic news gathering (ENG), operating in bands allocated to the fixed, mobile and broadcasting³ services, has become an important element in the comprehensive coverage of a wide range of internationally noteworthy events, including natural disasters;
- c)* that Report ITU-R BT.2069 provides a conclusion that the existing spectrum used for ENG is insufficient to meet anticipated demands;
- d)* that a wide diversity of ENG link equipment is currently available from manufacturers, and utilized by ENG operators, therefore some level of worldwide and/or regional harmonization is an important issue which needs to be addressed;
- e)* that operational constraints often introduce problems for administrations, as little advance notice is often provided for some ENG requirements, which minimizes the possibility for precoordination; however, harmonization of tuning ranges would facilitate ENG link operation, particularly at events requiring cross-border coverage, such as natural disasters;
- f)* that digitization has provided an opportunity for more efficient spectrum usage for ENG that could assist in meeting a growth in demand for spectrum for these systems;
- g)* that modular design and miniaturization of terrestrial ENG systems have increased the portability of such equipment and have thus increased the trend towards cross-border operation of ENG equipment;

¹ The term “tuning range” for ENG means a range of frequencies over which radio equipment is envisaged to be capable of operating; within this tuning range, the use in any one country of radio equipment from another country will be limited to the range of frequencies identified nationally in that one country for ENG, and will be operated in accordance with the related national conditions and requirements.

² For the purpose of this Resolution, ENG represents all applications ancillary to broadcasting, such as terrestrial electronic news gathering, electronic field production, TV outside broadcast, wireless radio microphones and radio outside production and broadcast.

³ Within some administrations, ENG applications are assigned within bands other than those allocated to the fixed and mobile services, for example in bands allocated to the broadcasting services.

h) that relevant ITU-R Recommendations and Reports have assisted administrations in addressing ENG operations in their spectrum planning,

noting

a) that worldwide/regional harmonization of tuning ranges for use by terrestrial ENG systems would be beneficial for administrations in meeting their operational requirements internationally;

b) that some frequency bands have characteristics which make their use more suitable for ENG;

c) that when an international newsworthy event occurs, broadcasters and/or ENG operators often have little or no lead time in which to prepare for deployment;

d) that there is a critical requirement to perform immediate spectrum management actions, including frequency coordination, sharing and spectrum reuse, within an administration where an international newsworthy event takes place;

e) that prior identification of potential frequency availability in individual administrations within which equipment might be able to operate, together with the use of equipment with adequate tuning ranges that allows for operation in various spectrum access scenarios, may ease the frequency assignment process, especially during international newsworthy events that draw broadcast audiences regionally and/or globally,

noting further

that it is in the interest of administrations and their broadcasting community to have access to updated information for ENG use,

recognizing

a) that access to a globally harmonized spectrum in terms of agreed tuning ranges is highly desirable to facilitate the rapid and less restrictive deployment and operation of ENG systems from one country to another;

b) that the dynamic nature of the use of ENG is driven by scheduled and unscheduled events such as breaking news, emergencies and disasters;

c) that news gathering and electronic production typically take place in an environment where several television broadcasters/organizations/networks attempt to cover the same event, creating a demand for multiple ENG links which results in an increased demand for access to spectrum in suitable frequency bands;

d) that, in some countries, ENG is utilized as part of an administration's telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) systems in the service of management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;

e) that Recommendation ITU-R M.1824 provides system characteristics for television outside broadcast, ENG and electronic field production (EFP) in the mobile service for use in sharing studies;

f) that Recommendation ITU-R F.1777 provides system characteristics of television outside broadcast, electronic news gathering and electronic field production in the fixed service for use in sharing studies;

g) that Report ITU-R BT.2069 provides spectrum usage and operational characteristics of terrestrial ENG, television outside broadcast (TVOB) and EFP systems;

h) that Recommendation ITU-R M.1637 addresses issues to be considered in order to facilitate the global circulation of radiocommunication equipment to be used in emergency and disaster relief situations,

resolves

1 to carry out studies regarding possible solutions for global/regional harmonization of frequency bands and tuning ranges for ENG use in bands already allocated to the fixed, mobile or broadcasting services, taking into account:

- available technologies to maximize efficient and flexible use of spectrum;
- system characteristics and operational practices which facilitate the implementation of these solutions;

2 to develop ITU-R Recommendations and/or ITU-R Reports based on the aforementioned studies, as appropriate,

further resolves

1 to encourage administrations to develop relevant information concerning their national ENG use (e.g. a list of frequency bands or tuning ranges available for ENG, spectrum management practices, technical and operational requirements, and spectrum authorization points of contact, as appropriate...) for use by foreign entities during worldwide newsworthy events;

2 to encourage administrations to consider, for harmonization purposes, frequency bands/tuning ranges used for ENG by other administrations,

invites

the membership to actively participate in the studies by providing contributions to ITU-R,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1 to develop a webpage to consolidate links to administration lists of ENG information as requested in *further resolves* 1;

2 to invite the administrations of Member States to ensure that the information provided is kept up to date by submitting any modifications to the information referred to above on an ongoing basis.