The Need for a Socio-economic Approach in Assessing Spectrum Requirements for Future Mobile Communications Markets and Services

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New services have often been mysteries to the industry - greatly underestimated or overestimated

	<i>Telecoms Industry</i> <i>view at launch</i>	The consumer speaks – the 'street' view
ISDN	The next generation of telecoms- replace POTS	UK / USA : "Idiot Services users Don't Need"
WAP	The mobile user will really go for this <i>technology</i>	<i>"WAP is crap"</i> - expensive, no services, difficult to use
Iridium LEOs	Just what the remote business traveller needs	20 times too expensive
Internet/WWW	Ignore Oh still there ?!! horror -stifle!VoIP wins	Just use it (@ no cost)
GSM – digital mobile	An extra (minor) feed for our fixed networks	Just what we need! - till we see the bill ! -so <i>PAYG</i> rules
SMS	Minor supplementary service (CLASS for Mobile)	The <i>only</i> service (mobile or fixed) for many users

While some of the biggest product launches in communications services over the last 20 years have delivered flops, seemingly trivial services have exploded.

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We need a better strategy to assess spectrum demands

- the underlying concepts and policy need to be improved as we have a rapidly evolving market with exploding demand –

- a discontinuity in radio technology could occur at any time, in order to cater for a far larger user population than the industry has ever seen before as radio exceeds fixed line, *and this effect is price sensitive*

- a transformation is under way from a mobile communications market for the transport of plain vanilla voice, over networks, towards a media and commercial transaction environment *and again this effect is price sensitive*

However, many players in the traditional telecommunications world have yet to fully realise these developments will occur.

Any useful approach must take account of this - it should track the most likely path for customer demand based on needs and income and the healthy development of radio services, not biased by a technical view or that of specific short-term interests.

The context – a global user population growth

With globalisation, costs of services and handsets will slowly be set by average world prices
Saturation is set by affordable price for the majority of users – numbers which may reach near 65% of a global population of over 7.5Bn by 2020 = 5Bn users



Potential take-up of radio services: from communication to mobile applications relies on a price benevolent context for disposable income levels of the global mass market



Usage of a Public Service is dictated by cost

- with demand following to the Dupuit Curve (1840)



User Population

Understanding the potential take-up of services



Mapping the potential of services to succeed



The strategy going forward in spectrum

- what form of spectrum allocation suits each type of underlying technology?

	Differentiation mechanism	Usable Freq range (Actual range)	Form of spectrum assignment
2G	FDD & TDD & Limited Spread spectrum CDMA	0.3 – 3.5 GHz (0.45- 2.3 GHz)	Assigned Bands + Guard bands
2.5G	FDD & TDD & Limited Spread spectrum CDMA	0.4 – 3.5 GHz (0.45- 2.3 GHz)	Assigned Bands + Guard bands
3G	Limited Spread spectrum W-CDMA/ CDMA-2000	0.4 – 3.5 GHZ (2.5- 3.3GHz)	Assigned Bands + Limited Guard bands
4G	Spread spectrum	Under 5 GHZ, possibly 6-10 GHz	Unlicenced spectrum, possibly in bands
Other NON- cellular AWTs* (WiFi etc)	Limited Spread spectrum/other	Under 5 GHZ, possibly 6-10 GHz	Unlicenced spectrum, possibly in bands

*Alternative wireless technologies

Growth of take-up of radio services



Our perspective of demand is economic – it sets social and technical parameters and features



Focus on user needs gives a balanced estimate of future mobile services



How can we draw socio-economic pictures of future demand?



Scenarios generate motivations & user types with needs analysis



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The study for IPTS : -



Future Mobile Services and Markets in Europe http://fms.jrc.es

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The whole FMS method can be summarised as 6 steps – based on the economic, social and technical parameters



The FMS method can be mapped on to the economic, social and technical parameters



Mapping scenarios - against the economic and sociological conditions



Comparing development in the Main Socio-Economic Scenarios



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