



Telecommunication Newsletter Switzerland

ComCom Launches Auction for Award of Mobile Radio Frequencies

On November 26, 2010, the Federal Communication Commission ("ComCom") launched the public tender for mobile radio frequencies, which will become available in the near future. The ComCom envisages to award the frequencies before the summer of 2011 within the framework of an auction process. The ComCom has charged the Federal Office of Communication ("OFCOM") to prepare a public tender for the mobile radio frequencies, which are free now and for those which eventually will become available in the foreseeable future. The invitation to tender is made with particular reference to the expiration of the GSM and UMTS licenses on 31 December 2013 and 31 December 2016 respectively. In addition, the frequencies in the 800 MHz range (digital dividend) will be put out to tender as well.

Option Process

With view to transparency and non-discrimination, the award will be made within the framework of an auction, which is open for the existing network operators as well as any other interested company.

Frequency allocation

According to the OFCOM, the frequencies will be awarded in a technology-neutral manner, so that it will be possible to use the latest mobile radio technologies, such as LTE. The frequencies will be awarded against a fee and subject for a minimum price up to the end of 2028.

Applications

Applications will have to be filed until March 18, 2011. In the application, the applicant will have to specify the maximum amount of spectrum to be acquired within the individual bands and will have to provide for bank guarantee in the minimum amount foreseen for the frequencies applied for.

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