



**Caribbean
Telecommunications
Union**

Digital Broadcasting Switchover in the Caribbean: Context, Considerations, Status and Plans

Presented by

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DBSF Caribbean 2012

Grand Royal Antiguan Beach Resort

History of the CTU

- Established in 1989 by CARICOM Heads of Government to be the inter-governmental telecommunications policy institution
- 2003: Defined a new strategic direction to address issues of information and communications technologies
- 2004: Expanded Membership to include Private sector and Civil Society organisations
 - 20 country Members
 - 5 Private Sector Members

CTU Spectrum Policy Work

- Caribbean Spectrum Management Policy Reform Project 2006 – 2009
 - First comprehensive regional initiative to address harmonised approaches to spectrum management
 - Financed by European Union, Canadian and ITU donor funding and the CTU

CTU Spectrum Achievements 2006-09

- Established Caribbean Spectrum Management Steering Committee (SMSC) and Task Force (SMTF) **Multi-stakeholder**
- Delivered face-to-face and online programmes in national spectrum management and spectrum pricing
- Convened multiple consensus and capacity building workshops of the SMTF and stakeholders

Achievements 2006 / 09 (Cont'd)

- Produced reports with recommendations from field audits of spectrum management practices and operations in 7 countries
- Produced the Caribbean Spectrum Management Policy Framework which was approved by GC10 for presentation to member states
- Preliminary work on developing an Indicative Table of Caribbean Spectrum Allocations
- Promoted national adoption of the SM policy framework
- Developed a Master Work Plan for future work items

Current Context for DBS Work

- Prioritising work on digital broadcasting switchover and digital dividend
 - Resolution passed by GC14, Barbados, Dec 2011
- Working with regional and international organisations to progress goals for digital broadcasting / switchover
 - Caribbean stakeholders meetings, Jan & Apr 2012, Trinidad (CTU, CBU et al)
 - ITU Workshop, Barbados, May 2012
 - CTO/CBA DBSF Caribbean, Antigua, August 2012
 - Targeting a draft DBS framework for Q4 2012

ITU DTV Workshop - May 2012

Workshop Objectives	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build Capacity in the region for managing DTV transition and the digital dividend• Undertake frequency coordination work to facilitate harmonised spectrum allocations for digital broadcasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased grasp of DTV transition, frequency coordination & reporting issues• Documented DTV transition status for 17 Caribbean territories represented• Formulated recommendations for harmonised DTV transition and use of digital dividend

ITU DTV Workshop - May 2012

Summary of Recommendations

- Note WRC-12 decisions to allocate the 700 MHz and 800 MHz bands to global mobile service and current development of globally harmonised band plans to enable this
- All efforts be made to ensure availability of these bands in the Caribbean
- Caribbean Administrations are therefore urged to take the necessary steps to enable the use of the 700 and 800 MHz bands by the mobile service alongside with international harmonization.

DBS Status in the Caribbean

- Switched Over to Digital:
 - Puerto Rico (Full power stations) [ATSC]
 - French Overseas Territories [DVB-T]
 - Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Martin, St. Barthelmy
- Digital / Analogue Simulcasting:
 - USVI [ATSC]
 - Curacao [DVB-T]
 - St. Maarten [DVB-T]
- Planning:
 - Everybody else

CTU's Goals for DBS Framework

- Ideally to harmonise:
 - Broadcast technology standard
 - Spectrum allocations
 - Band plans
 - Network design approach
 - Transition management checklists
 - Analogue switch-off targets
- Draft framework by December 2012

Harmonisation Challenges

- Different locations on the transition road
- Different goals, motivations, momentum to date
 - Work already done
 - Decisions already made
 - Implementations in train
- Assorted regulatory frameworks and institutions (single or multiple regulators)
- Broadcasters on board?
- Resources and funding
- Time constraints

Potential Benefits

- Economies of scale for equipment acquisition for broadcasters and consumers
 - Lower transmission costs per broadcaster
 - Lower receiver costs for consumers
- Spectrum management facilitation
- Interference avoidance/minimisation
- Environmental impact mitigation
- Resource/expertise optimisation and sharing

Other Future Goals 2012 - 2016

- Reconvene SMSC and SMTF permanently
- A framework for interference mitigation & resolution
- An Updated spectrum management policy framework with:
 - harmonised approaches to digital switchover / dividend
 - harmonised policy for disaster communications
- A Completed Caribbean Indicative Table of Spectrum Allocations
- Automated Caribbean SM database
- Regional spectrum pricing policy framework
- A Caribbean amateur radio certification regime
- Further development of regional expertise



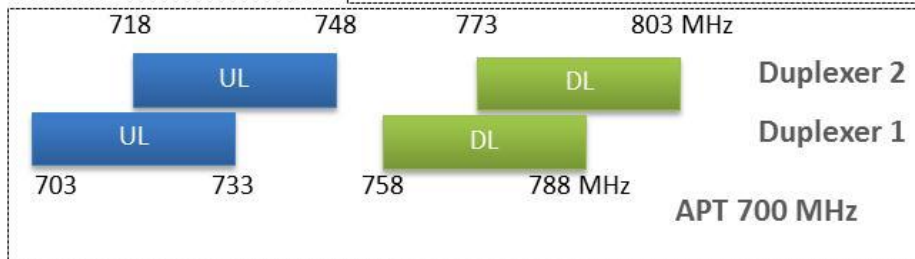
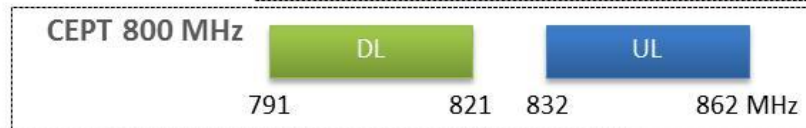
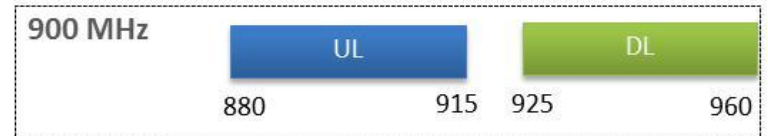
CTU

Thank you!

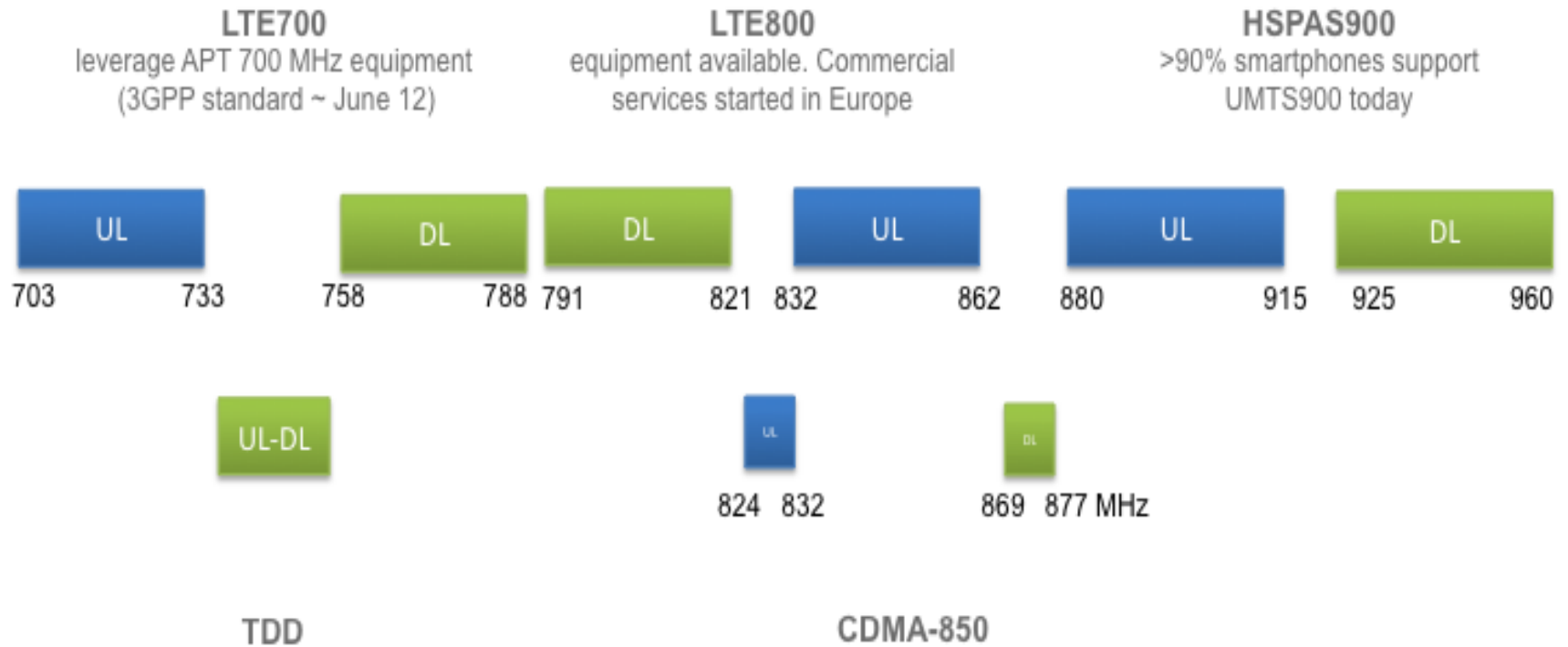
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Current Regional Band Plans

700-900 MHz



A Current Proposal for a Globally Harmonised Band Plan 700-900 MHz



Sample DTV Transition Checklist (MStarks)

- Technology
- Spectrum and licensing
- Additional regulatory issues
- Funding & business case
- Transition management
- Planning analogue switch-off