

# MOBILE BROADBAND, TVWS & FUTURE OF SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT

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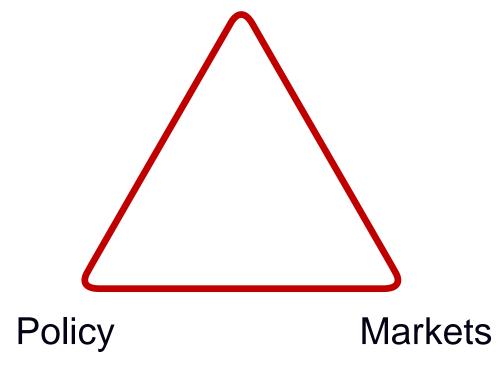
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WHITE SPACES & DYNAMIC SPECTRUM ACCESS GSR14, BAHRAIN, JUNE2, 2014









Markets do not fall like manna from the heavens.

They are created by legal precepts and institutional structures of a given country

#### WHAT THE TVWS DEBATE IS ABOUT





WITH A CRITICAL RESOURCE LIKE PRIME SPECTRUM?

#### THE CENTRAL QUESTION





SHOULD A CRITICAL SOCIAL RESOURCE
LIKE PRIME SPECTRUM BE MANAGED THROUGH
DELIBERATIVE POLICYMAKING PROCESS,
OR SHOULD IT BE LEFT TO
THE WHIMS AND VAGARIES OF THE MARKETPLACE?

#### TWO DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES



#### **TVWS PROPONENTS:**

Prime spectrum in the 470 MHz – 694/8 MHz range (that will become available with the imminent Digital Switch Over) be assigned license-exempt status and made available to all and sundry for free

#### **MOBILE INDUSTRY:**

This prime spectrum, with its excellent propagation characteristics, is best used to serve public policy goals of inclusive growth through Mobile Broadband, and best under a licensed spectrum regime

#### STATE VS. MARKET





State vs. Market is *not* an either/or issue

The point is to find the right balance, through light-touch regulation

Licensing allows the State to guide the Market in socially desirable directions by attaching policy conditions and obligations (like geographical and population coverage, for instance)

#### THE OTHER BENEFIT OF LICENSING





Un-licensed spectrum regime will fail to inspire investor confidence and so fail to attract capital and know-how necessary to exploit spectrum for public good.

## PATCHWORK QUILTS & PROCESSES





Should Patchwork Quilts
be made by cutting
broadcloths?
Or with left over scraps
of fabric?

Is there a spectrum crunch in Africa? If not, why not deliberate and get things right?

Complete

Assess social needs

Allocate, assign spectrum

# AGENDA





- > MOBILE BROADBAND AS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE
- > EXAMINING SOME TVWS PROPOSITIONS
- > PARTING THOUGHTS



## MOBILE SUBSCRIPTION GROWTH



- > 6.6 B subscriptions in Q3 2013
- > 113 M net additions in Q3 2013

#### 6.6 BILLION

mobile subscriptions globally in Q3 2013

Note: Number of subscribers around 4.5 B



Source: Ericsson (November 2013)



750 M

PCs and tablets

5.6 BN

Smartphone subscriptions 8.0 BN

Mobile broadband subscriptions

9.3 BN

Mobile subscriptions

## POPULATION COVERAGE





WCDMA/HSPA estimated to cover ~90% of world population by 2019

145

HSPA 42 Mbps networks are commercially launched in 75 countries

>65%

of the world's population will be covered by LTE in 2019

274

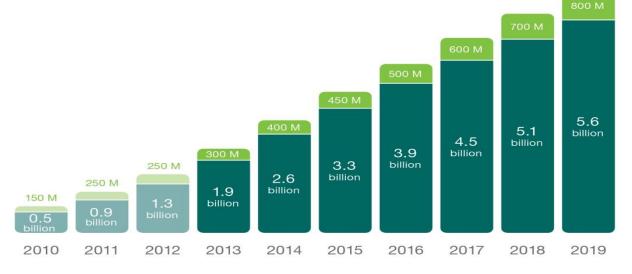
LTE networks launched In 101 countries

# 5.6 BILLION SMARTPHONE SUBSCRIPTIONS END 2019



- 5.6 B smartphone subscriptions by the end of 2019
- > 55% of phones sold during Q3, 2013 were smartphones
- ➢ By 2019 the average smartphone subscription will use 2.2GB of data per month

Smartphones, mobile PCs, tablets and mobile routers with cellular connection



Mobile PCs, tablets and mobile router subscriptionsSmartphone subscriptions

Source: Ericsson (November 2013)

#### WHY THESE NUMBERS MATTER





Because all kinds of societal goals

– political, economic, developmental –
are intrinsically tied to the growth of
Mobile Broadband























## MBB AS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE





## ON GOING THE DISTANCE





# SPECTRUM HARMONIZATION, LICENSING & STANDARDIZATION: BENEFITS



Identification of common frequency bands at the international level for IMT – spectrum harmonization – and subsequent licensing of spectrum and standardization activity are key to meeting national policy goals.

Principal benefits of these activities are:

- ➤ Economies of scale, lowering cost of coverage of marginalized, low-population density areas
- > Efficient use of spectrum for wide area coverage,
- Cross-border operation and coordination,
- Regional and Global roaming capabilities
- Simplifying design of equipment, focusing R&D investments,
- > Ensuring Interoperability for choice, convenience
- Providing long-term investment assurance for manufacturers, network operators, others

economy of scale

harmonized spectrum

standards

Providing affordable broadband services and applications for all



#### WHITE SPACES

- 'White Spaces' in telecom refer to unused or underused spectrum – often *intentionally*, as in the case of guard bands
- White spaces can be found both in terms of time and space
- White spaces as guard bands serve to mitigate against radio interference

#### & TVWS



- > TVWS in NOT a technology, but spectral resource.
- ➤ In context of current policy debate, it is code for 'regime change' getting prime spectrum in 470 MHz 698 MHz band to be assigned a "license-exempt status"
- It lacks a technology roadmap, not to mention a robust eco-system



### TECHNOLOGY BEHIND TVWS

# The technology behind TVWS is 802.11a/f – a WiFi derivative

And WiFi, as we all recognize, is a celebration of the success of fixed-line infrastructure

#### EXAMINING TVWS PROPOSITIONS



- There is "No Opportunity Cost" to broadcasters.
  Specious argument since the opportunity cost is to society.
- > TVWS will liberate underutilized spectrum.
  There are better ways: Licensed or Authorized Shared Access, for instance

# LIBERATING SPECTRUM LICENSED SHARED ACCESS AS A POLICY TOOL



#### **Licensed Dedicated**



Mainstream approach for MBB 350 MHz now, need 1500-2000 MHz

#### **Licensed / Authorized Shared**

Complementary for MBB
Targeted opportunities (3.5GHz, AWS3)

#### **Unlicensed Spectrum**

Dedicated to Wi-Fi >500 MHz today

- Efficient for large area and population coverage
  - Predictable quality of service
  - Reliable at high load at all times
- Affordability, Economies of scale, High valuations
  - Fast unlocking of mobile spectrum
- Either-or usage between incumbent and licensee
  - Predictable quality of service
- Protects incumbent, lends investment security
- Efficient for indoor / controlled environments and short ranges, typically indoor
  - Unpredictable quality of service
  - Reliable at low load, unreliable at high load

#### EXAMINING TVWS PROPOSITIONS



- There is "No Opportunity Cost" to broadcasters.
  Specious argument since the opportunity cost is to society.
- > TVWS will liberate underutilized spectrum.
  There are better ways: Licensed or Authorized Shared Access, for instance
- ➤ New, innovative business models under unlicensed spectrum regime will help bridge the digital divide quickly and efficiently

  Self interest will drive players to cherry-pick and thwart policy goals of inclusion.

  Licensing preferred, since allows policymakers to attach policy obligations.
- ➤ White Space databases & spectrum analysis tools available now for DS Access No conclusive studies presented in the ITU process WP 5A or 5D. Databases controlled by private actors may usurp and undermine mandate of policymakers

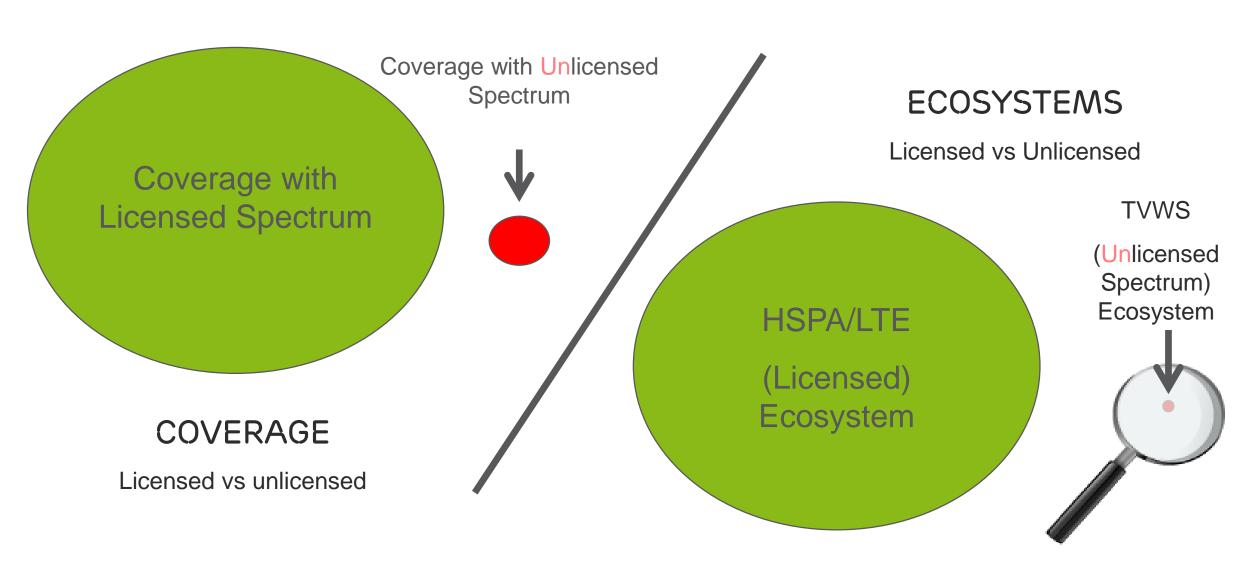
#### EXAMINING TVWS PROPOSITIONS/2



- Unlicensed spectrum regime, sans auction costs, will make services affordable. Shoddy thinking since it conflates licensing with auctions. Spectrum may be licensed through 'beauty contest,' revenue sharing model, etc.
- ➤ License-exempt spectrum regime would unleash positive forces in society. License-exempt spectrum regime would deny emerging market mobile users benefits of the economies of scale and scope inherent in a robust eco-system.

# COVERAGE AND ECOSYSTEM LICENSED VS. UNLICENSED SPECTRUM





#### EXAMINING TVWS PROPOSITIONS/3

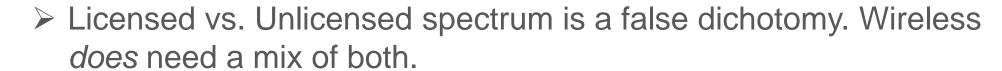


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- TVWS will provide instant access and bridge the Digital Divide. Bridging the Digital Divide is not merely about access. It's also about connectivity. Backhaul is critical. TVWS approach is *technologically* inefficient as a system.

#### MOBILE INDUSTRY POSITIONS









➤ Not against exploiting White Spaces, but do not support the idea in sub-1GHz spectrum. (Sub 1GHz should be licensed, dedicated)



➤ Not against unlicensed spectrum, but again do not support the idea in sub-1GHz spectrum. (We support unlicensed in 2.4GHz, 5GHz.)



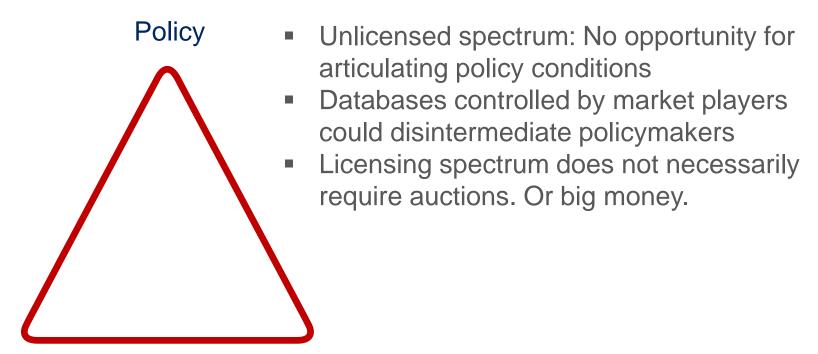
➤ Under-utilized spectrum *should be* 'liberated' and put to social use. But Licensed or Authorized Shared Access (LSA/ASA) is way to go.



➤ Making prime spectrum license-exempt serves neither the goals of efficiency (technology) nor equity (social policy, inclusiveness).

#### EXAMINING TVWS ARGUMENTS/FINAL





#### Technology

- LTE and 802.11x: OFDM, yes, but higher, control layers are issue.
- Access & connectivity
- Unclear backhaul solutions

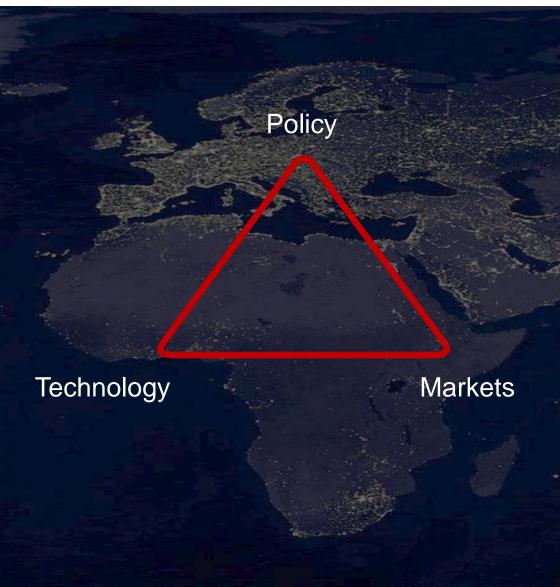
#### Markets

- May lack the scale of Financial and intellectual investment of MBB
- Ecosystem, and scale
- Spectrum Squatters



#### PARTING THOUGHTS





- Policymakers should SEIZE current MBB opportunity on 700-800-900MHz now
- Policymakers should exercise regulatory FORBEARANCE on sub-700 UHF spectrum till after the DSO (& when they can assess spectrum, and social needs)
- Must recognize importance of LICENSED, HARMONIZED spectrum regime in enabling scale, scope, robust ecosystems
- ➤ LEVERAGE spectrum judiciously to unleash Africa's digital potential



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