

**Abstract** – Flexible spectrum access rules which provide investment certainty and a neutral technology baseline are essential for the efficient market-driven introduction of innovative wireless services. Clear, legally robust, practical interference benchmarks are necessary, which are fully defined in relation to all interference mechanisms and without need for negotiation with adjacent licensees or a Regulator. The rules must not only support interference management but also preserve the utility and economic value of spectrum under conditions of flexible use. All this is a much more complex task than at present where management of interference is often simplified through use of harmonised equipment standards (also referred to as device-centric management). Simply extending old and familiar methods of interference management will not provide an acceptable solution for flexible access which must now deal directly with the utility of a five-dimensional spectrum space: spatial volume, frequency and time. There is a solution which has operated successfully for the past 9 years. It uses an alternate definition for “harmful interference” based on the other end of the transmit-receive radiocommunication entity; the transmitter. Under the alternate definition, “harmful interference” is defined simply as radiating greater than a specified maximum power from an antenna. Receivers must be designed to work around deployed transmitters but the operational parameters for transmitters are constrained in relation to the size of the spectrum space under which they are authorised to operate. Thus interference management becomes space-centric. Space-centric management is founded on *transmitter spectrum denial* (transmitters deny receivers access to spectrum) rather than *receiver spectrum denial* (receivers deny transmitters access to spectrum), the foundation of device-centric management. Market management under conditions of flexible access can be facilitated to quite a surprising level by employing space-centric management with explicit transmit rights and implicit receive rights.