



Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA)



Capacity building on spectrum auctions

Spectrum auctions became the norm for awarding mobile broadband radio spectrum in developed countries. It has been also used widely in emerging markets, including several African countries.

Over the past two decades, spectrum auction designs have been evolved significantly allowing policy makers and regulators not only to award spectrum in a transparent and objective manners but also to implement other policy objectives aiming at encouraging competition or extending the coverage to non-commercial areas.

Ensuring spectrum pricing predictability and alignment with the best international practices are among the objectives of PRIDA project. During the second PRIDA focal points meeting took place in Addis Ababa in Dec. 2019, several participants highlighted the lack of knowledge and experience on spectrum auctions designs.

PRIDA capacity building list of events, endorsed by PRIDA Technical Committee, included a training course on spectrum auctions.

Dates and trainers:

A three-day training course, three hours a day, will be conducted online using Zoom platform as follows:

	Dates	Trainer
English	January 11-13, 2021	Mr. Graham Friend
French	January 18-20, 2021	Ms. Reine Essombmadje

Target audience:

Radio spectrum engineers and other regulatory experts dealing with spectrum licensing and pricing.

Both trainings are expected to attract more than 200 participants from the 54 African beneficiary countries.

Training programme:

The training will provide participants with examples and details of the most common spectrum auctions formats, including, sealed bid, combinatorial clock auctions, simultaneous multi-round ascending auctions.

The topics to be covered include:

- Spectrum awards: market-based v. administrative approaches
- An overview of the different types of spectrum auctions (single- v. multiple-round, open v. sealed, ascending v. descending, single v. multi-band)

- For the most common format of spectrum auctions (including sealed bid, combinatorial clock auctions, simultaneous multi-round ascending auctions), to provide details of:
 - The different aspects of spectrum auctions design (e.g. reserve price, transparency rules, switching rules, abstract v. concrete spectrum blocks)
 - suitability for different spectrum licences to be auctioned,
 - required systems and resources,
 - qualification and selection criteria,
 - potential risks (e.g. collusion between bidders).
- How spectrum auctions can be used for achieving other policy and spectrum management objectives (e.g. encouraging market entry and hosting MVNOs, spectrum re-farming, licence renewal, coverage obligations).
- Case studies from Africa.