



**Caribbean  
Telecommunications  
Union**

# **Digital Broadcasting Switchover in the Caribbean: VHF (174 – 216 MHz) and UHF (470 – 806 MHz) Bands**

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# History of the CTU

- Established in 1989 in Nassau, The Bahamas by Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, to be the inter-governmental telecommunications policy instrument for the Caribbean
- 2003: Defined a new strategic direction to address issues of information and communications technologies
- 2004: Expanded Membership to include Private sector organisations
- 2005 - 2009: Undertook the Caribbean Spectrum Management Policy Reform Project
- 2013 - 2016: Harmonised Caribbean Spectrum Planning and Management Project

# CTU Spectrum Harmonisation Work

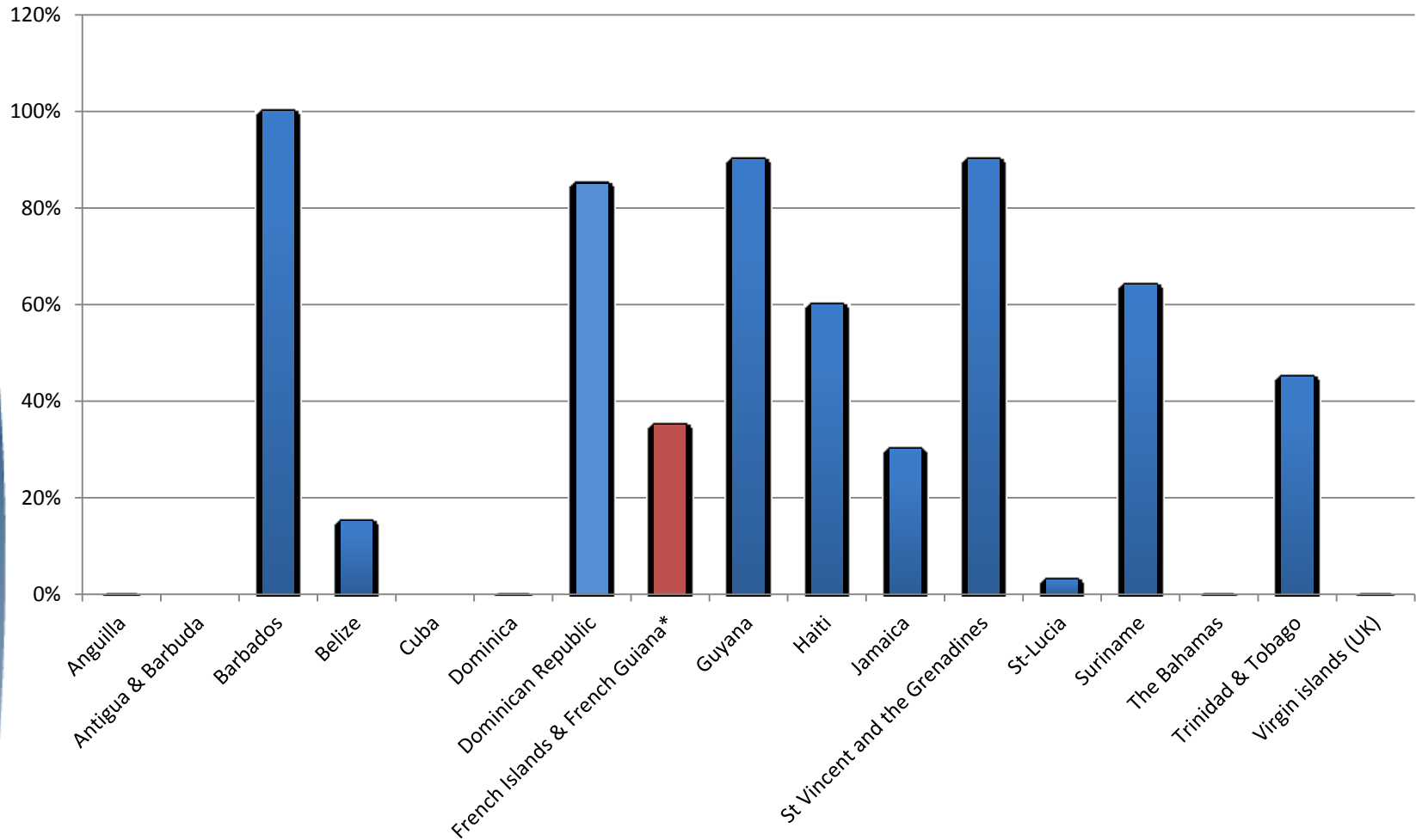
- Established Caribbean Spectrum Management Steering Committee (SMSC) and Task Force (SMTF) \**Multi-stakeholder*\*
- Convened multiple consensus and capacity building workshops of the SMTF and stakeholders
- Developed a Caribbean Spectrum Management Strategic Plan 2016 – 2018 inclusive of recommendations for DSO and TVWS
- Guidelines NOT legal mandates

# DBS in the Caribbean

- DTV in Operation:
  - Puerto Rico (Full power stations) [ATSC]
  - French Overseas Territories [DVB-T]
    - Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Martin, St. Barthelmy
  - USVI [ATSC]
  - Curacao [DVB-T]
  - St. Maarten [DVB-T]
- Planning national deployments:
  - CTU countries
- Some application-specific deployments e.g. Green Dot in T&T et al

# Terrestrial TV in the Caribbean

## Terrestrial TV penetration



# 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

# 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

# Strategic Plan DSO/TVWS Provisions

## Digital Switchover & Whitespace Management

1. Caribbean countries should have a harmonized approach to determining the most suitable DTT and STB standard for their local needs.
2. A distribution model which encourages a common carrier infrastructure should be adopted.
3. Countries should create an enabling environment through which TVWS technologies can facilitate national and regional needs.

- Countries determine the most suitable DTT and STB standard for their local needs.
- Develop the appropriate commercial and regulatory environment nationally to facilitate implementation of a common carrier distribution model
- Harmonise spectrum allotted for TVWS technologies



# VHF / UHF Current Usage

(MHz)	174-216	470-512	512-608	608-614	614-698	698-806
ATG						
BAH						
BRB						
BLZ						Mobile
DMA						Mobile
GRD						Mobile
GUY						
JMC						Mobile
KNA						Mobile
LCA						Mobile
SUR						
TRD						Mobile
VCT						Mobile



**CTU**

**Thank you!**

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