

Ofcom Consultation

British Entertainment Industry Radio Group (BEIRG)

PMSE clearing the 700 MHz band - PMSE equipment funding rate card

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- BEIRG's members are responding individually to the consultation with specific changes to the first version of the rate card.
- BEIRG welcomes the fact that Ofcom realises the rate card is a work in progress and that it will work with stakeholders so that a 'rolling' document is created, and can be updated as stakeholders discover more equipment that is eligible for the funding scheme. It is essential that the rate card is as comprehensive as possible so that no-one is left worse off as a result of the 700 MHz move for PMSE.
- BEIRG expects that requests to expand the list to ensure stakeholders are not disadvantaged by the cost of accessories such as capsules, battery packs and microphone connectors will be accepted. This can be a significant cost. The shortage of spectrum requires some stakeholders to purchase different equipment. It should be the case that even though the products themselves are not obsolete, as it requires new accessories to work in the new spectrum they should be included. It is essential that the funding scheme creates a level playing field and that no stakeholder should be worse off as an unintended consequence of the move, which was at Ofcom's instigation.
- BEIRG also looks forward to continuing discussions with Ofcom regarding the scheme operation, ensuring that it is user friendly and straightforward for claimants. BEIRG would be very happy to meet whoever wins the tender to assist them in achieving this aim.

- BEIRG hopes to continue working with Ofcom to ensure that PMSE has adequate spectrum available to ensure high quality productions and events are able to continue.
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British Entertainment Industry Radio Group

The British Entertainment Industry Radio Group (BEIRG) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that works for the benefit of all those who produce, distribute and ultimately consume content made using radio spectrum in the UK. Venues and productions that depend on radio spectrum include TV, film, sport, theatre, churches, schools, live music, newsgathering, political and corporate events, and many others. BEIRG campaigns for the maintenance of 'Programme Making and Special Events' (PMSE) access to sufficient quantity of interference-free spectrum for use by wireless production tools such as wireless microphones and wireless in-ear monitor (IEM) systems.

As well as being vital in producing live content, wireless audio PMSE technologies play a key role in helping to improve security and safety levels within the entertainment industry and other sectors. Their benefits include improving the management of electrical safety, the reduction of noise levels, the development of safety in communications and reducing trip hazards as well as providing an essential tool for the security orientated services. Wireless equipment and the spectrum it operates in are now crucial to the British entertainment industry.

BEIRG is a member of the Association of Professional Wireless Production Technologies (APWPT)¹, which promotes on an international level the efficient and demand-driven provision and use of production frequencies for professional event productions, as well as safeguarding such production frequencies for the users on the long run.

¹<http://www.apwpt.org/>