Presented by

Nigel Cassimire
Telecommunications Specialist

Caribbean Telecommunications Union

Digital Broadcasting Switchover in the Caribbean: Status and Plans for VHF (174 – 216 MHz) and UHF (470 – 806 MHz) Bands

28 August 2017

2nd ITU Frequency Coordination Meeting
Guatemala City, Guatemala
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
- 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

Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Islands & French Guiana, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Suriname, The Bahamas, Trinidad & Tobago, Virgin Islands (UK)
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.

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## VHF / UHF Current Usage

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Thank you!
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