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

7th May 2018

3rd ITU Frequency Coordination Meeting Panama City, Panama
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

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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
| 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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