MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN RADIO SPECTRUM FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING WITHIN UHF BANDS

BACKGROUND

The New Zealand Government has announced, as part of its policies on telecommunications and broadcasting, its intention to make provision for new services through a flexible regime for the allocation of spectrum and to promote changes to existing telecommunications and broadcasting legislation for this purpose.

The Ministry of Commerce is in preparation for the implementation of the Government's policy proposals is seeking information on the demand for new services to assist in the provisions, design and planning of available spectrum for such new uses and subject to the enactment of legislation by Parliament, the establishment of procedures for the allocations of that spectrum.

PURPOSE OF INVITATION

The purpose of this invitation is to obtain information on the level of interest and demand for radio spectrum in certain UHF frequency bands for telecommunications, including television broadcasting, in New Zealand.

RADIO SPECTRUM DESCRIPTION

Under consideration is the range of frequencies between 518 MHz and 806 MHz within New Zealand. The spectrum has usage allocation in the international Radio Regulations as follows:

518 — 582 MHz Fixed, Mobile, Broadcasting
582 — 614 MHz Fixed, Mobile, Broadcasting, Radionavigation
614 — 806 MHz Fixed, Mobile, Broadcasting

Additionally the 614 MHz to 790 MHz range of frequencies is allocated to the Amateur service on a secondary basis. Any future usage will be in accordance with these allocations.

INTERNATIONAL USAGE

The broad frequency range 582 MHz to 862 MHz is commonly referred to as Band IV/V UHF Television Broadcast although to provide the available frequency range for broadcast purposes is somewhat less than that. Internationally two channelling plans used:

The European 8 MHz plan for 470 — 862 MHz i.e. Channel 21 (470 — 478 MHz) to Channel 69 (854 — 862 MHz)

The USA 6 MHz plan for 470 — 806 MHz i.e. Channel 14 (470 — 476 MHz) to Channel 69 (800 — 806 MHz)

EXISTING NEW ZEALAND USAGE

In preparing expressions of interest regard should be had to the following existing uses of the spectrum:

470 — 582 MHz: Low power television in the Nelson, Blenheim and Westport areas (Channel 26 European Plan).

582 — 614 MHz: Television reception equipment at Auckland, Otahea, Wellington and Christchurch with the exception of Otahea this is to be phased out over a two year period.

614 — 806 MHz: Amateur television repeaters in the Wellington and Gisborne areas.

470 — 710 MHz: Low power television usage in the Wellington area. (Channel 46 Channel 69 European Plan)

710 — 790 MHz: Low power television usage in the Wellington and Christchurch areas. (Channel 69 European Plan)

FORMAT OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Expressions of interest may be made in any format desired. However, as much as possible of the following information should be included:

(1) Name or person or organisation
(2) Postal Address
(3) Business telephone contact number
(4) Contact person for technical matters
(5) General description of the type of service to be provided
(6) Geographical extent of coverage(s) desired
(7) Transmitter locations
(8) Preferred form of spectrum allocation:
— Single channels for each site
— Non-contiguous allocation of one or more specific channels
— Non-contiguous allocation of a sub band (i.e., block) of channels
(9) Where Television Broadcasting is intended:
— Services other than off-air requirements
— Quality services requirements (e.g. CCIR, STL etc)
— Audio/TV transmissions requirements (e.g. Dual Language, Stereo Sound, Teletext etc)

CONFIDENTIALITY

APPENDIX 6