

6.2 Eligibility to acquire lots

1. A number of submitters on the 2.3 GHz discussion paper argued that large incumbent telecommunications operators (Telecom and Vodafone in particular) should be excluded from the auction in order to facilitate competition in the telecommunications market by ensuring that smaller and non-incumbent operators could not be crowded out by the larger companies.
2. The decision to auction the 2.3 GHz and 2.5 GHz bands together (which makes significantly more spectrum available to interested parties), along with the proposed acquisition limit of 35 MHz, largely resolves this issue. There is also a significant potential disadvantage in excluding large incumbents from an auction since that they may be best placed to make investments providing new services to consumers.
3. Accordingly no restrictions on eligibility to bid (other than standard provisions) are proposed.

Question 4: Eligibility to bid

Do you agree that no restrictions should be placed on the eligibility of parties to bid for lots?