

Public Hearings on the Second Draft National Radio Frequency Plan 2025

Support for NRFP v2 & The 6 GHz Vision

Theme: Alignment with Global & Regional Standards

- Broad Support for NRFP v2 (2025): We commend the Authority's commitment to efficient, flexible spectrum management to drive wireless broadband and innovation.
- Lower 6 GHz (5925–6425 MHz) Success: Validation of the decision to allow license-exempt WAS/RLAN.
- Alignment with ATU Recommendation ATU-R 005 and existing South African regulations.
- Upper 6 GHz (6425–7125 MHz) Integration: Strong support for including the U6 GHz band for license-exempt use.
- Directly aligns with WRC-23 (ITU-R RR 5.457E), recognizing RLAN implementation in this band.
- Economic Impact: Unlocking the full 1200 MHz of the 6 GHz band is vital for South Africa's position in the global digital economy.

Technical Recommendations for Implementation

Regulatory Consistency & Operating Conditions

- Updating Annexure B: We recommend an immediate amendment to the Radio Frequency Spectrum Regulations 2015 to formalize operating conditions for the 6425–7125 MHz band.
- Parity in Technical Standards: To ensure ecosystem harmony, U6 GHz conditions should mirror those of the Lower 6 GHz band:
- Low Power Indoor (LPI): Maximum 23 dBm eirp. (Outdoor use prohibited).
- Very Low Power (VLP): Maximum 14 dBm eirp (Indoor and outdoor use allowed).
- Clarity for Industry: Consistent power levels across the entire 1.2 GHz range will simplify device manufacturing and deployment for the South African market.

Future-Proofing & Strategic Partnership

Theme: Innovation through Dynamic Access

- Advancing Spectrum Efficiency: We urge the Authority to look beyond LPI/VLP by implementing Dynamic Spectrum Access (DSA).
- The Role of AFC: Implement Automatic Frequency Coordination (AFC) to enable Standard Power WAS/RLAN across the full 6 GHz band (5925–7125 MHz).
- Benefit: Protects incumbent services while maximizing outdoor and higher-power coverage.
- Conclusion & Commitment:
- Our group remains committed to a sustainable, advanced wireless ecosystem.
- We look forward to collaborating with ICASA to ensure South Africa's spectrum framework remains world-class.