



prasa

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**The Independent Communications
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Attention: Mr Manyapelo Richard Makgotlho

Email: rmakgotlho@icasa.org.za

11 February 2022

Re: Response to ICASA's draft Implementation of the Radio Frequency Migration Plan and the International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) Roadmap

Dear Sir

PRASA commends ICASA's regulatory consultation process of the implementing the Radio Frequency Migration Plan and the International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) Roadmap. We would like to comment on the **1880-1920 MHz and 1885-1980 MHz band**. While this band is not included in the current migration plan, but mentioned in the document we therefore would like to draw the attention of ICASA the developments of the interest in this band by the rail community.

As the end of life for the GSM-R second generation (2G-based technology) is fast approaching, with the forecasted to be obsolesce envisaged to be around 2030, its successor communication system the Future Railway Mobile Communication System (FRMCS) standards are being finalized and its deployments being initiated. FRMCS defined as an essential element of the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS) has considerations regarding the use of 1900 band for its deployment to address railway industry broadband mobile communication systems that the digitization process in rail operations; enhancing safety, operational efficiency as well as services innovation. The European region have identified the 1900-1910MHz unpaired band as the target for FRMCSⁱ

On this basis, PRASA requests that ICASA give serious consideration to these requirements and reserve allocation to the country's rail industry. The FRMCS is not only envisaged to be a European standard

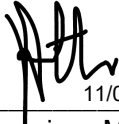
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but rather a Global standard which would enable the rail operator leverage from equipment ecosystem. Also, at present our organization has already started its digitization process and would be seeking to enhance its current GSM-R network services with FRMCS system services.

Kindly regards



11/02/2022

Athanacius Makgamatha
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i i <https://docdb.cept.org/download/1446>
[p.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/aa8ab02f-2187-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en#:~:text=Home-,Commission%20Implementing%20Decision%20\(EU\)%202021%2F1730%20of%2028%20September,\)%20\(Text%20with%20EEA%20relevanc](https://eur01.safelinks.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/aa8ab02f-2187-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en#:~:text=Home-,Commission%20Implementing%20Decision%20(EU)%202021%2F1730%20of%2028%20September,)%20(Text%20with%20EEA%20relevanc)