

Shure's Response to ICASA's Public Consultation on the Draft National Radio Frequency Plan (NRFP) 2025

Shure Incorporated welcomes the opportunity to respond to ICASA's public consultation on National Radio Frequency Plan (NRFP).

Shure is celebrating its 100th year as an iconic American brand in audio technology. Since 1925, Shure has been a leading global manufacturer and innovator of audio equipment known for quality, performance, and durability. Shure products are employed globally in audio-Programme Making and Special Events (PMSE)¹ applications, also known as SAB/SAP² across various industries such as broadcasting, film production, and professional media content creation, both indoors and outdoors. Shure equipment is also extensively used in civic, business, and special event settings. As the need for high-quality audio solutions continues to rise, Shure consistently meets the evolving demands of increasingly complex productions.

Audio PMSE utilizes the TV-UHF (470-694 MHz) band as the key global spectrum band, it ensures high-quality sound production and seamless communication during live events. Over the past decade, the availability of TV-UHF spectrum has significantly decreased due to its reallocation to IMT/mobile broadband use. Despite this, the demand for audio PMSE content has significantly increased, driven by both traditional audiences and mobile phone consumers. It is crucial to acknowledge the social and economic value of audio PMSE, as well as the industry's efforts to enhance spectral efficiency and address these challenges. Ensuring the continued availability of sufficient, interference-free spectrum is vital to meet the growing demand for wireless audio PMSE technologies.

Shure commands ICASA's ongoing support for audio PMSE and wireless microphone operations in the 470-694 MHz band, thereby supporting the vibrant growth of South Africa's creative industries.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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¹ ITU's inclusive term consisting of radio microphones, in-ear monitors, wireless cameras, talkback systems, etc.

² Services Ancillary to Broadcasting (SAB)/Services Ancillary to Programme making (SAP)

1. Programme making and Special Events (PMSE) Definition

Shure respectfully proposes the inclusion of the term PMSE, along with the definition of Programme Making and Special Events (PMSE), also known as SAB/SAP, in the NFRP. This addition would align with the ITU's Terms and Definitions database, ensuring consistency and clarity across regulatory frameworks.

PMSE is defined by ITU as follows:

PMSE: Programme making and special events

Programme making: The creation of content for broadcast, the production of films, presentations, advertisements, audio or video recordings; and the staging or performance of an entertainment, sporting, social or other public/private event.

Special events: Occurrences of limited duration, typically from one day to several weeks or longer, which take place in specifically defined locations.

Note: Examples: cultural, sport, entertainment, religious and other festivals, conferences, and trade fairs.

2. 470-694MHz Band for Audio PMSE (wireless microphones)

Shure thanks ICASA for continuing to allow audio PMSE/ wireless microphone operations in the 470-694 MHz band and for ensuring these operations continue seamlessly.

The TV-UHF band (470-694 MHz) serves as the main global spectrum band for audio PMSE. It plays a crucial role in delivering high-quality sound and reliable communication at live events. As the demand for live events and professional content creation continues to rise, the importance of this band becomes even more pronounced. Increasingly complex productions and growing audiences require dependable wireless audio solutions, making the TV-UHF band's favorable characteristics, such as robust transmission and wide coverage, essential for meeting these challenges.

3. 1880-1900 MHz band for DECT Based Audio Applications

Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunications (DECT) technology is a cornerstone in wireless audio applications, particularly within the 1880-1900 MHz frequency band. Initially designed for cordless telephony, DECT has expanded to support a wide range of audio solutions due to its robustness, reliability, and adaptability. Audio PMSE speech applications have transitioned to DECT for professional conferencing, talkback, and intercom systems.

ICASA already accommodates “DECT systems” in the 1880-1900MHz band in the Radio Frequency Spectrum Assignment Plans (RFSAP), demonstrating a broader inclusivity than currently reflected by “DECT Cordless Telephones” in the “Typical Applications” column of the Table of Frequency Allocations.

Shure respectfully proposes the inclusion of “DECT Cordless Telecommunications Systems” and “DECT-based audio applications” in in the “Typical Applications” column of the Table of Frequency Allocations to better represent the diverse applications of DECT technology.

4. 1350-1400MHz for audio PMSE (Wireless Microphones)

Similarly, ICASA permits the use of wireless microphones in the 1350-1400 MHz band within the RFSAP. **Shure respectfully proposes the inclusion of audio applications, specifically wireless microphones, in the “Typical Applications” column of the Table of Frequency Allocations. This addition would provide a clearer representation of the uses of this frequency band.**