

In addition to the market demand for terrestrial television broadcasting, there are also other interested parties who have a long-term need to use parts of the 470-694 MHz band, both incumbent and new. Both public mobile network operators and government users in Germany such as PPDR or defence require spectrum in 470-694 MHz for future applications in order to be able to provide the necessary performance and capacities.

The continuously increasing demands on the performance of mobile communications services and new services in rural areas can no longer be met using the three bands used for public mobile communications allocated below 1 GHz. There is great public interest in high-performance mobile communications services along transport routes and in rural areas. At the same time, we recognize a growing acceptance of alternative distribution channels and an increased use of non-linear offerings, particularly among younger age groups. This changed user behaviour could be served in the future, for example, through cooperative service offerings.

For this purpose, convergent approaches such as 5G Broadcast in 3GPP are specified, which enable combined linear and non-linear offerings for mobile usage scenarios. There are considerations to also use DTTB to warn and inform the population in the event of crises or disasters on mobile devices, in addition to existing mobile services (cell broadcast).

Bitkom recognises the need to create an extended regulatory framework for the 470-694 MHz band that will allow Europe and Germany to respond in a timely manner to a changing demand situation for spectrum resources in the 470-694 MHz band after 2030.

Bitkom supports maintaining the current primary allocation for broadcasting services, and supports sustainable solutions for the long-term continuation of PMSE use and the continued operation of relevant services such as radio astronomy and wind profiling radars.

Bitkom continues to support an additional primary allocation of 470-694 MHz for the mobile service as a sustainable regulatory framework for the open discussion to be held in Europe on the future use of this band, taking into account to discuss the future use of this band while respecting existing regulations such as GE-06.