



ECC Decision (18)01

ECC Decision on the withdrawal of

ECC Decision (15)02 on 'The harmonised use of broadband Direct Air-to-Ground Communications (DA2GC) systems in the frequency band 1900-1920 MHz'

06 July 2018

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1 INTRODUCTION

The ECC Decision (15)02 of 3 July 2015 on the harmonised use of broadband Direct Air-to-Ground Communications (DA2GC) systems in the frequency band 1900-1920 MHz was reviewed at the end of 2017, as it was foreseen by its decides 5. It was concluded that ECC Decision (15)02 was suitable for withdrawal and no longer needed.

2 BACKGROUND

Mobile customers expect to be connected everywhere, every time, with all kind of mobile devices. This includes the provision of broadband services on-board aircraft and European airlines have great interest to offer internet services to their flight passengers in their continental fleets as soon as possible.

In this context, the band 1900-1920 MHz has been investigated in 2014 for broadband DA2GC applications as described in CEPT Report 52 and ECC Report 214. It led to the development of ECC Decision (15)02.

Despite the fact that ETSI has developed standards which can be used for broadband DA2GC systems with as well as without beamforming antennas, no demand has been expressed within the 2015-2017 timeframe for taking up the opportunity for a European Broadband DA2GC system in the band 1900-1920 MHz.

In addition, other options are in place for the provision of broadband services on-board aircraft:

- ECC Decision (15)03 is retained and provides an opportunity for broadband DA2GC systems in the frequency range 5855-5875 MHz, shared with other spectrum use.
- Other DA2GC solutions are currently implemented in North America using spectrum which is shared with other use, e.g. in the 2.4 GHz frequency band.
- The connection link between the aircraft and the global broadband network can be established either via satellites or by means of DA2GC. Satellite and DA2GC can be seen as alternative technical solutions which are in competition. On the other hand, both solutions could also be seen as complementary to each other. It should be noted that Mobile-Satellite Service (MSS) systems (1980-2010 MHz / 2170-2200 MHz) are being developed and such systems may include a Complementary Ground Component (CGC). In Europe, MSS systems might also be used to provide communication to aircraft in the near future.

In summary, it is believed that the withdrawal of ECC Decision (15)02 does not have any negative consequences and may also stimulate proposals for the band 1900-1920 MHz with regard to the use by other alternative radio applications in the future.

3 REQUIREMENT FOR AN ECC DECISION

The ECC Rules of Procedure foresee that the withdrawal of a Decision is subject to the same procedure as the development and adoption of a new Decision. This Decision therefore is developed to withdraw the following ECC Decision:

- ECC Decision of 3 July 2015 on the harmonised use of broadband Direct Air-to-Ground Communications (DA2GC) systems in the frequency band 1900-1920 MHz (ECC DEC/(15)02).

ECC DECISION OF 06 JULY 2018 ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF ECC DECISION (15)02 ON THE HARMONISED USE OF BROADBAND DIRECT AIR-TO-GROUND COMMUNICATIONS (DA2GC) SYSTEMS IN THE FREQUENCY BAND 1900-1920 MHZ (ECC DECISION (18)01)

“The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

considering

- a) to retain the ECC Decision (15)03 on Broadband DA2GC in the 5855-5875 MHz band for the time being;
- b) that the frequency band 1900-1920 MHz is allocated to the mobile service on a primary basis in the European Common Allocation Table (ERC Report 25) and in the ITU Radio Regulations;
- c) that within Europe the frequency band 1900-1920 MHz was designated in the past for UMTS (among other systems) but the frequency band has been removed from the amended ECC Decision (06)01 in 2012;
- d) that within CEPT licences for UMTS/MFCN are still in force (see CEPT Report 52);
- e) that the band 1900-1920 MHz is under discussion with regard to the use by other alternative radio applications in the future;
- f) that no demand has been expressed within the 2015-2017 timeframe for taking up the opportunity for an European Broadband DA2GC system in the band 1900-1920 MHz band.

DECIDES

1. to withdraw the ECC Decision (15)02 of 3 July 2015 on the harmonised use of Broadband Direct Air-to-Ground Communications (DA2GC) systems in the frequency band 1900-1920 MHz;
2. that this ECC Decision enters into force on 6 July 2018.