

The Authority approves on WiMax measure

The Communications Regulatory Authority, chaired by Corrado Calabrò, and speakers Commissioners Giancarlo Innocenzi and Michele Lauria, has approved the regulation that defines the procedures for the assignment, by the Ministry of Communications, of the rights of frequency band use of 3,5 GHz, for the technologies of broadband radio access (Broadband Wireless Access), of which WiMax.

The Regulation has the aim to permit frequency assignment, in an efficient manner, moderating both the needs of a competitive development, and the availability of broadband in the areas that are not covered by service.

The Regulation provides for the assignment of 3 rights of use for each geographic area equal to at least 2x21 MHz. In order to promote the conditions of an effective competition in the access provision via radio, one of the rights of use will be allocated to operators, so called “*new comers*” that do not have other frequency resources which allow the provision of services that are comparable to those of BWA.

Each geographic area of the first two lots will be created from a minimum of two Regions to a maximum of 4.

The third lot specifically assigned to new entrants, will have a regional geographic basis with the aim of promoting a service offer aimed at local needs.

The duration for frequency rights of use will be of 15 renewable years.

The frequency assignment will take place according to distinct rankings for each right, based on the total amount offered even through a system of multiple raisings. In the public announcement the Ministry will define the minimum auction amount for each geographic area and each frequency block. For all three lots it will be possible to present an offer for more geographic areas within the national dimension. Admittance conditions are envisaged for the questions on technical and commercial qualification criteria that will be specified in the public announcement.

The Regulation defines also the minimum covering obligations to attain within 30 months from the release of rights of use. Other obligations have been established for the actual frequency use, within 30 months from the release, in order to avoid a “*foreclosure*” action from the operators who won the rights of use.

Respecting the technological neutrality principle specific limitations have not been established on final services. Therefore, along with Communitarian predispositions, the Regulation identifies the conditions for a prearranged and efficient use of assigned frequencies.

Naples, 9 May 2007

