



Ministry of Information Technology  
& Telecommunication

**DIGITAL PAKISTAN**

# 5G Strategic Plan & Policy Guidelines



**Draft Policy Guidelines**

**Ministry of IT & Telecommunication**

**Government of Pakistan**

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Considering the feedback of 5G readiness plan after consultation with all relevant domestic & International stakeholders following “draft recommendations” may be considered with the below objectives for timely 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution & 5G Technology deployment in Pakistan.

### Objectives

- i. Socioeconomic development of Pakistan
- ii. Broadband proliferation and promote effective utilization of Spectrum
- iii. Promote consumer welfare (user experience, affordability, etc.)
- iv. Enhance digital inclusion and E-Governance
- v. Promote innovation entrepreneurship and Startups in ICT sector
- vi. Economic growth in the ICT sector

### Policy Guidelines

- (1) For efficient utilization of the IMT spectrum and timely launch of commercial 5G ecosystem in Pakistan, improvement of mobile broadband services, phase wise availability of at least 840 MHz (including the current licensed spectrum) for IMT in low and mid-bands by the end of 2024 or first half of 2025 (i.e after expiry of WLL licences by 2024) may be planned as per best practices. In this regard, maximum possible spectrum bandwidth shall be made available in the following IMT spectrum bands which are already approved by the FAB for re-farming subject to process of re-farming as per Section 8.5 of the Telecom Policy 2015:
  - a. (B28/n28) 700 MHz
  - b. (B40/n40) 2.3 GHz
  - c. (B41/n41) 2.6 GHz – efforts to clear litigation be expedited

- d. (B42-43, B52/n78) 3.5 GHz - 3300 MHz - 3415MHz is available; 3415 – 3600 MHz be made available after completion of re-farming and expiry of WLL Licenses in 2024
  - e. Available spectrum in (B3/n3) 1800 MHz and (B1/n1) 2100 MHz
  - f. mmWave bands (n257, n258 and n261 etc.) may be made available while its use shall be subject to market demand assessment.
- (2) **Frequency Allocation Board (FAB)** shall make the maximum possible interference free bandwidth available as mentioned in para (1)
- (3) Efforts should be made for expeditious resolution of respective court cases by MoIT&T, PTA, FAB and PEMRA. Attorney General Office and Ministry of Law & Justice shall provide all support for vacation of these IMT bands for inclusion in Spectrum Auction planned in early 2023.
- (4) PTA shall carry out the **appointment of reputed consultant(s)** after issuance of 5G Policy Guidelines fulfilling codal formalities, in order to recommend to GoP on:
- a. Investment friendly spectrum auction design to provide an opportunity for both existing and prospective operators to acquire maximum IMT spectrum.
  - b. Per MHz spectrum price determination in USD or PKR, payment terms like flexible/ dynamic installment plan.
  - c. IMT/5G Spectrum Block sizes, minimum bandwidth per operator in line with international best practices.
  - d. Number of operators, tenure of license, regional/national IMT spectrum licensing models, license template including rights and obligations; and supportive changes to the licensing regime, auction rules and optimum timelines related to the auction process to offer better visibility, preparation and confidence to the investors and facilitate successful 5G launch.
  - e. Incentives for auction winners with commitment on 5G roll out.
  - f. Spectrum sharing and Trading, active sharing and national roaming

- g. Recommendations on sharing of IMT bands between IMT/5G and other services including Satellite.
- (5) The spectrum assignment shall continue to be technology neutral.
  - (6) MoIT&T may review the Right of Way policy to facilitate telecom network deployment.
  - (7) MoIT&T shall finalize the Spectrum Re-farming Framework for IMT bands after recommendations/consultation from PTA, PEMRA and FAB. Process of spectrum refarming shall be realized through a policy directive and Spectrum Refarming Committee comprising of MoIT, FAB, PTA/PEMRA and incumbent users, in line with the Telecom Policy 2015.
  - (8) To enable the 5G technological eco system, Ministry of Finance in consultation with MoIT&T, PTA, FAB and any other relevant stakeholders to finalize incentives be reflected in the Financial Bill 2022 included but not limited to the following:
    - a. Tax rebate, Tax rationalization and elimination of duty tariff on import of all components of high end 4G and 5G devices (smartphones, IOT devices, and CPEs) across all slabs to promote local manufacturing of high end 4G and 5G devices including handsets and customer premises equipment (CPE), 2G handsets (CBU) import shall be banned.
    - b. Duty free IMT/5G network ready equipment imports to facilitate 5G readiness and mobile broadband to support wider mobile broadband and 5G networks deployment.
    - c. Special incentives for global Telecom equipment vendors to establish assembly and production lines in Pakistan to promote local assembly of IMT/5G and IoT eco system devices including chipsets.
  - (9) Licensee shall establish at least one 5G Innovation & test centers/labs to scale up 5G eco system for startups and entrepreneurship activities at their own cost for citizens free of charge for academia and research purpose at GoP designated institute all over Pakistan-within 02 years of the grant of license
  - (10) Extensive non-commercial 5G trials (mobile and fixed) shall be supported. Trials may include establishment of 5G hotspots in academic institutions, incubation centers, research

organizations etc. Existing training programs within MoIT&T/Ignite should incorporate digital skills that support 5G use-case discovery process.

- (11) MoIT&T and PTA shall lead 5G awareness and orientation campaign for other ministries and departments (including Science & Technology, Education, Health, Agriculture etc.) to enable them to develop coordinated policies and use cases relevant to mobile broadband and 5G.
- (12) The MoIT&T and PTA along with the Ministry of Health, Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency and other stakeholders should engage in a public education campaign in relation to 5G reassuring the public about the safety of the technology.
- (13) All relevant stakeholders including MoIT&T, MoF, PTA and FAB to work in parallel for conduct of spectrum auction in 2023.

#### **Suggested Timelines & Milestones:**

1. PTA to commence hiring of consultant for Auction Process after issuance of 5G Strategic plan and Policy guidelines.
2. Finalization & Reflection of Incentives by Finance Committee in the Finance Bill FY 2022-2023 – June 2022.
3. PTA consultation recommendation finalization for Policy Directive by December 2022.
4. Commercial launch target is first quarter 2023.

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