Views on Spectrum Use for Drones

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EU Harmonised Spectrum

(1) Commission Decision on SRDs (2017/1483/EU)

- 26.957-27.283 MHz
- 433.05 – 434.79 MHz
- 863 – 870 MHz
- 2400 – 2483.5 MHz
- 5725 – 5875 MHz

(2) Commission Decision on PMSE (2016/339/EU)

- 2010 – 2025 MHz

(3) Commission Decisions on terrestrial systems capable of providing electronic communications service (2G, 3G, 4G, 5G)

- 1140 MHz of harmonised spectrum in the EU
- Mobile Allocation: 1800 MHz; 2 GHz; 3.6 GHz
- Mobile (except aeronautical mobile) Allocation: 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz; 2.6 GHz
- De facto coverage at heights up to 300 meters

European Commission

5G Action Plan - Timeline

Radio Spectrum Committee

(1) Discussion on drones in December 2017

- Status of the EASA Basic Regulation
- Linkage between Basic Regulation and the RED
- Exchange of views based on document RSCOM17-57
- European Commission's primary concern on spectrum is that the availability of harmonised frequencies meets the current and foreseeable short / medium term demand for UAS operations.

(2) Results

- Some Member States would welcome further harmonisation
- Many Member States have not defined their position and asked for more time to reflect
- No action for the time being
- Further discussion planned for 2018 based on developments

Questions

(1) Market Demand vs. Available Spectrum

- Is there a problem in the context of unclear frequency allocations? Is there a clear market demand (mainly from commercial UAS operators) for new and/or revised frequency allocations that prompts further investigations and possibly future harmonisation measures in the short/medium term?

(2) New spectrum bands?

- Would Member States consider it useful to develop a report that would describe in depth the most common (or the most economically relevant) operational scenarios for the UAS categories 'Open' and 'Specific' along with the recommended frequency bands and any other technical requirements that should be used?

(3) Is further action on spectrum needed at EU Level?

- Is there a need for EU action on spectrum in order to cater specifically for UAS operations in the near future (while ensuring a degree of continuity for the UAS systems already in the market)? Is there a need for new harmonised allocations? All in all it would be useful to have a preliminary roadmap for future work.