

Much of TRA's work focuses on interfacing with telecommunications licensees. However, because of its use well beyond telecommunications, issues relating to electromagnetic spectrum, such as co-ordination, allocation, monitoring and enforcement, are addressed in conjunction with the Directorate of Wireless Licensing, Frequency & Monitoring (DWL,F&M) at the Ministry of Transportation.

The TRA is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the National Frequency Plan as it applies to telecommunications frequencies. It also issues regulations and is responsible for ensuring adequate access to services, including their interconnection and interoperability. This includes, where necessary, the power to enforce the sharing of facilities and property by public telecommunications operators. All these can be barriers to effective competition.

When a license application is made, the TRA assigns frequencies to the application in accordance with the National Frequency Plan, as part of preparing and issuing the license. The DWL,F&M is kept informed of all licenses issued. Changes to licenses are considered in consultation with the DWL,F&M.

Frequency license fees are payable to the TRA. Upon receipt, the TRA pays the DWL, F&M the agreed fee for the frequency or frequencies allocated to the licensees.

In conjunction with the DWL, F&M, and other relevant agencies, the TRA will define the technology that should be used within blocks of spectrum (eg GSM, 3G, Paging etc).

The TRA currently has responsibility for the issue of licenses for the commercial operation of telecommunications frequencies, including the following applications: PMR, Paging, GSM 900, GSM 1800, 3G, satellite-based systems and point-to-point microwave links.

Where frequency assignment within the bandwidth allotted to telecommunications is a national matter, the TRA assigns frequencies itself within the range previously allocated by the DWL,F&M. Where co-ordination with international bodies is required, however, the DWL,F&M takes the lead.

Complaints about the misuse of frequencies by individual licensees, or interference, regardless of its origin, are dealt with by the DWL,F&M and the TRA.

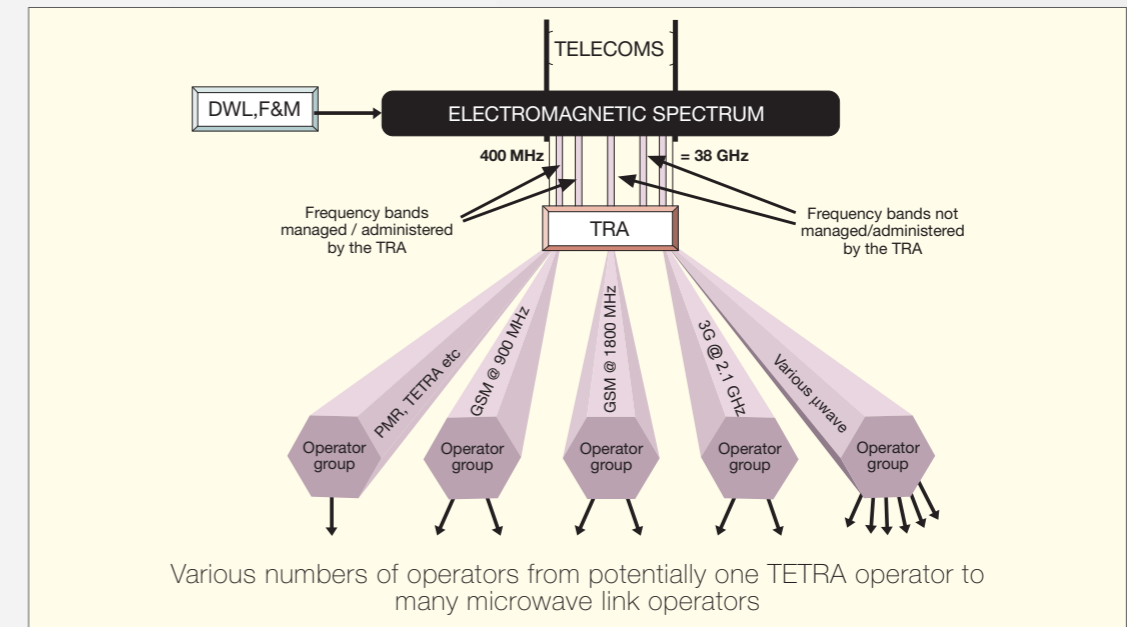
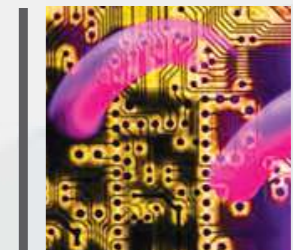


Figure 5: Spectrum used for telecommunications

Spectrum Management and the National Frequency Plan



The Authority shall have the power to assist the authority responsible for Radiocommunications in relation to the preparation of the National Frequency Plan as it applies to telecommunications frequencies. SECTION (3) (c, 7)



The Authority shall have the power to license telecommunications frequencies to licensed operators in accordance with the National Frequency Plan. SECTION (3) (c, 10)