



JFMG shifts into top gear

Things have certainly changed since our last e-newsletter. The spectrum landscape continues to be re-cast and Ofcom's plans for a commercial PMSE Band Manager are also taking shape.

Similarly we have gone through some changes of our own. Our business model has been a reliable one, but it has been clear for some time that in the future it will not fit the bill. So with this in mind the beginning of 2009 saw JFMG shift up a gear in the race to be the successful PMSE Band Manager.

Towards the end of last year we initiated a restructuring process to better reflect our changing operational requirements. It intends to reflect a shift in the balance between the number of in-house and online bookings and address a number of issues that we understand the industry are most concerned about. Our 'Meet the new arrivals' piece on page 3 explains how we think these changes will improve our service to customers.

The speed of change was further accelerated by the acquisition of the company by Arqiva Ltd in February. This really provides us with the impetus we need, not only in the financial backing required to secure PMSE spectrum, but also to acquire additional spectrum in the future. It gives us the opportunity to continue to provide the industry access to existing PMSE spectrum but may also give us access to spectrum that Arqiva has previously secured through auction. Not only that but we can use our unique skills to provide services to other industries in the future.

Our contract with Ofcom runs into 2010 until the successful Band Manager is up and running so our customers can expect to receive the same service they currently enjoy.

Looking externally February also saw the publication of another Ofcom Digital Dividend Review consultation detailing proposals to move Ch69 licensees out of the band in 2012. If plans go ahead this will entail a considerable amount of re-planning and communication to the industry. Our article on page 2 further explains the proposals put forward and what the PMSE UHF spectrum picture would look like post 2012 should proposals go ahead.

We expect to respond to the consultation later this month and we'll be sure to publish it on our website along with any other useful updates in the meantime. So despite the changes it is 'business as usual'. Our owners may have changed, but our PMSE focus remains the same.

In this issue:

- DDR – the picture so far
- Meet the new arrivals
- Microphone and IEM bookings tailored to your equipment
- JFMG Login – Managing your account
- ADS arrives online
- Browser compatibility

If you have any comments about JFMG News please email: amanda.houchen@jfm.co.uk

ISO 9001:2008 accreditation

We are happy to announce that we passed the annual quality audit of our licensing system in February and are now certificated to the new ISO 9001:2008 standard.

ISO 9001 ensures that all business processes are captured and updated with any changes to ensure a consistent and quality approach to all services.



Technology...

DDR – the picture so far...

With the latest in a long run of Ofcom consultations having been published earlier in February it seems to be becoming more and more difficult to have a clear vision of exactly what the wireless microphone spectrum will look like after 2012.

The most recent development is that Ofcom propose to close Ch69 for PMSE use at the end of 2012. It would then be auctioned along with Ch31 – 37 and Ch61 – 68 to better align the UK's Digital Dividend with the rest of Europe.

Whilst the news would appear to be counter to their previous commitment to continued Ch69 access; Ofcom are committed to finding suitable alternative spectrum and minimising disruption and expense to PMSE users. The recent consultation discusses a number of replacement options with the preferred one being Ch38 which was previously intended to go to auction since UK radio astronomy are vacating in 2012. Once the channel has been vacated it will provide UK-wide access for low power use and so provides the best alternative in terms of coverage and equipment availability. It is also preferable in terms of potential access costs for users in the future. Ofcom calculated that the successful band manager would need to pay in the region of £2.8m for Ch69 alone, a cost that no doubt would need to be passed to users. In contrast Ch38 is costed at just £122,000.

Ofcom's proposals include a scheme to aid the move from Ch69 by providing financial assistance to current licensees. It is likely that users will be compensated for the unused portion of their existing equipment, but the details of the scheme are still in their infancy.

It is not entirely clear how users would successfully move out of Ch69 and into Ch38 at the end of 2012 when it becomes available UK-wide. This would certainly be difficult from an

equipment readiness point of view. An interim move to a channel adjacent to Ch38 may be preferable for some. This is not something Ofcom have considered yet, but it is likely that some step-change may be required.

The closing date for the "[DDR: clearing 800 MHz band](#)" consultation document where all of these proposals can be found is 20 April 2009.

The table and key below details what the final picture will look like if Ofcom's most recent proposals go ahead at the end of 2012:





21 470- 478	22 478- 486	23 486- 494	24 494- 502	25 502- 510	26 510- 518	27 518- 526	28 526- 534	29 534- 542	30 542- 550	31 550- 558	32 558- 566
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33 566- 574	34 574- 582	35 582- 590	36 590- 598	37 598- 606	38 606- 614	39 614- 622	40 622- 630	41 630- 638	42 638- 646	43 646- 654	44 654- 662
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57 758- 766	58 766- 774	59 774- 782	60 782- 790	61 790- 798	62 798- 806	63 806- 814	64 814- 822	65 822- 830	66 830- 838	67 838- 846	68 846- 854
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69 854- 862

-  Cleared Spectrum – is proposed to be auctioned in 2010 but cleared of PMSE use at end of 2012
-  Ch36 to be cleared of PMSE and airport radar use and will be auctioned
-  Interleaved Spectrum – assigned to Digital TV with some channels auctioned for use in some locations in 2010. PMSE use of channels where available, protected until 2018
-  Channel 38 will be cleared of radio astronomy and is proposed to replace Channel 69 in 2012

Forthcoming Ofcom publications:

The publications listed below are of relevance to PMSE users and are expected to be released in the next few months:



- White Space update – the latest on spectrum available for PMSE in Ch21 – 30 and Ch39 - 60
- Olympics spectrum plan
- PMSE Band Manager: AIP and Technical Licence Conditions

Out & About...



Daniel Grimes

Meet the new arrivals

Since we published our last newsletter back in July 2008 we've seen the arrival of 2 new members of the team.

Daniel Grimes joined us as Operations Manager in November '08 and our very newest recruit Paddy O'Reilly arrived in January '09.

Daniel's main goal is to ensure that our in-house team continue to provide our customers with a quality service. Daniel has already visited a couple of customers but hopes that he will be able to meet more of you in the coming months to learn what you think of the service we provide and if there is any way we can improve on it.

During the last couple of years the industry has become more and more concerned by the existence of unlicensed use, in particular because of the impending band manager award.

We have listened to these concerns so Daniel and his team are regularly monitoring live music and theatre tours to identify unlicensed use in advance. We can then contact the users with a view to them obtaining a licence. A successful pantomime campaign over the Christmas period resulted in a 17% increase in licensing.

In addition we have understood how much customers would value an increased presence

at events. Paddy O'Reilly's new role as Technical and Field Coordinator seeks to address this concern.

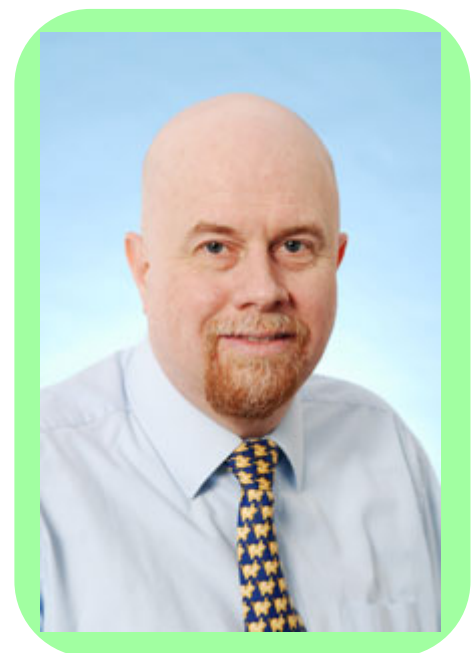
Paddy's primary role involves spending a large proportion of time in the field. This will include various activities that we hope will improve not only our service to customers but spectrum availability and quality.

We will be able to attend a wider range of sites to check for compliance with frequency plans and actively monitor spectrum to identify and resolve interference problems. This will include Major Events, but will also include areas where we think there are spectrum capacity issues.

Paddy hopes to conduct a number of technical surveys to help determine spectrum availability for PMSE and other applications, in particular for white space spectrum. This will also include validating our own technical assignment assumptions.

He will also investigate reports of interference and carry-out technical measurements where possible to determine the likely cause.

Both Paddy and Daniel are looking forward to their individual challenges and are particularly keen to meet our customers and better understand their needs.



Paddy O'Reilly

Next Steps...

Microphone and IEM bookings tailored to your equipment

Our latest online release can revolutionise the way you book your Microphone and IEM frequencies. Booking bands are a one-size-fits-all approach but mean that once you've booked a band no-one else can, even if you're only using a couple of frequencies. So now we also offer a ready-to-wear option where customers can choose frequencies straight from popular manufacturers' stock. If the standard lists don't fit with your equipment then we can also provide a fully bespoke service creating lists that match your specific requirements.

If you would like us to create a bespoke list for your company contact us at admin@jfmq.co.uk.

JFMG Login – Managing your account

Whilst the primary benefit of logging onto our online tools is that customers can book frequencies in real time, it also provides other services that can help you manage your account:

- Change User Password – change the password we allocate you for something more memorable;
- Company Credit Card – set a password for credit card use removing the need to enter the full card number at every transaction;
- User Edit – add or delete web users;
- View Assignments – download a report detailing all of your recent transactions;
- Call Report – view a list of your completed or in progress applications
- Carnet Usage Report – keep track of your pre-paid tokens;
- Purchase Carnets – top up on pre-paid tokens;
- Renew licence – renew UK Wireless Mic licences and apply to renew standard licences
- UHF Mic Planner – check channel availability at a location



ADS arrives online

Short-term bookings for the most popular Audio Distribution System (ADS) frequencies are now available online.

Look out for the 'Book ADS frequencies' option on the left-hand menu once you've logged onto our online tools.

Browser compatibility

Our current web tools were originally designed to support Internet Explorer browsers only, but we understand how frustrating it can be for Mac users and the like who cannot take advantage of the service. With this in mind we have undertaken additional development to enable users of Firefox and Safari to access the system. Our team is currently testing the work and hope to release it onto the live system in the next couple of months. We'll keep you posted...

Licensee communications



3.5 GHz users

Users of 3400 – 3600 MHz would have received letters from the Ministry of Defence in February telling them that the band may not be available for PMSE use after 2010. They intend to trade the spectrum in line with Government commitments to use non-civil spectrum more efficiently.

Ch69 users

854 – 862 MHz users will have also received a letter from Ofcom alerting them to the "Clearing 800 MHz" consultation document detailed on page two of this newsletter.