



Hale-Bopp courtesy of: <http://www.flickr.com/>

## What goes around ....

In 1997, the Great Comet Hale-Bopp was a dramatic feature in the night sky. It was on 1<sup>st</sup> April that it swung through its closest point to the sun before setting-off on another orbit.

On that very same day, JFMG began trading. It was undoubtedly a time of considerable change and uncertainty for programme makers. Some parts of the industry were initially anxious about the new backdrop. But we set-out on our own voyage with a determination to support the whole industry and to be judged by our deeds. We believe that we have won many new friends on our journey and perhaps played a small part in keeping the PMSE sector on-track.

Ten years on and our industry once again faces great uncertainty. This time it is the introduction of market-methods and the Digital Dividend Review that are filling our field of view. From our solid foundations we have the opportunity and responsibility to support a fragmented industry that is perhaps like the tail of a Great Comet. That is, many elements headed in the same direction, but unable to aggregate together.

For my purposes it would have been convenient if Hale-Bopp was expected back shortly (or even 2012) but it won't return until the year 4380! But then things don't always come around just when you would like.

**Paul Gill –  
Managing Director**

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If you have any comments about JFMG News please email: [amanda.houchen@jfm.co.uk](mailto:amanda.houchen@jfm.co.uk)

### Audio Distribution Systems



If you regularly purchase ADS licences from JFMG, remember that from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 you'll also need to obtain a Broadcasting Act licence from Ofcom.

ADS spectrum will also be extended to include the entire range between 52 and 68 MHz, with the option for annual fixed site licensing.

## The Digital Dividend Review

As Paul mentions in his editorial, the Big Issue since our last Newsletter has been the publication of Ofcom's Digital Dividend Review (DDR) consultation on 19 December 2006.

Since then we've been working to publicise the issues to customers, formulating views and talking to Ofcom about its impact.

The consultation closed on 20 March 2007 and has certainly caused a stir. At the last count Ofcom had received over 600 responses. Around 20% of all those published focussed specifically on the PMSE issue. Well done to all of you who managed to send your thoughts in!

A myriad of views have been voiced, here is just a selection....

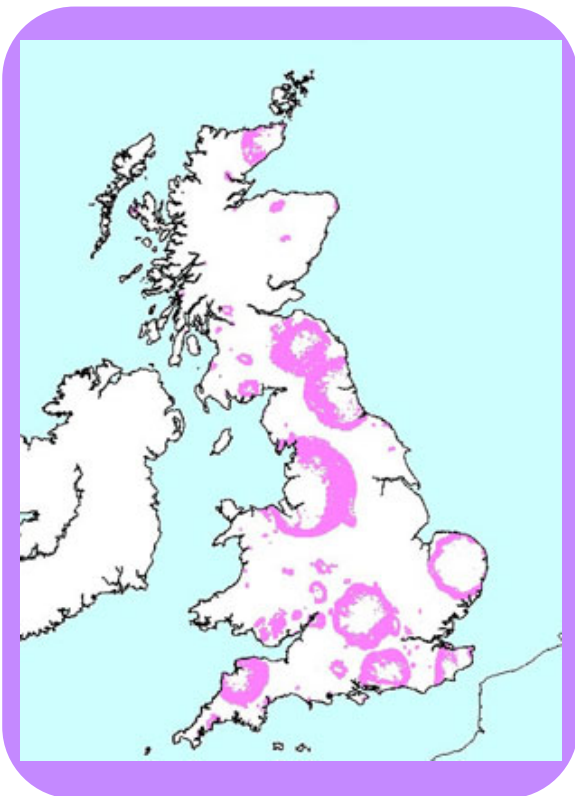
# Technology...

## DDR continued...

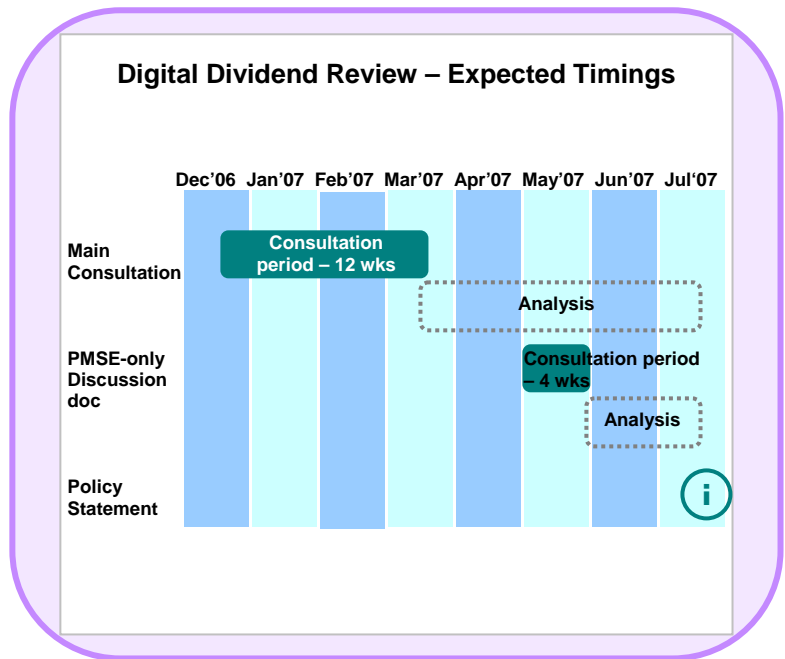
“The Consultation does not make clear what will happen to the PMSE industry if a technically competent spectrum manager cannot afford to bid for the DDR spectrum, or if an auction, or auctions are won by an organisation that lacks the necessary expertise.” **Hartley Jones Innovation**

“The Health and Safety Executive, with whom we work closely, has expressed concern at the possible reduction in use of these devices [in-ear monitors] as a result of spectrum becoming unavailable.” **PSA**

Everyone’s hard work has not been in vain. Ofcom have recently announced that they plan to publish an additional discussion document focussing solely on PMSE issues. It is expected later this month, allowing the document to take the initial responses into account. The consultation period is expected to be shorter this time, so we’ll all have to get cracking on our responses. Ofcom aim to include their decisions regarding PMSE in the full DDR statement expected in July 2007 (Refer to our timeline).



The “White Space”



## Finding the new White Spaces

White Space or interleaved spectrum is the much talked about “new” opportunity in the TV bands. It is the geographic area where a TV channel can be used for other purposes such as wireless microphones without causing interference to TV reception. In fact, the opportunity is not new as JFMG has been quietly and effectively managing White Space for 10 years (and more in our previous lives).

Our current tool enabled us to open-up the TV bands to a whole host of users including theatre and live music whereas previously it had been the domain of just broadcast production. All these sectors within PMSE are now dependent on using White Space spectrum for wireless microphones and in-ear monitors.

Today’s analogue and digital television networks have largely been static but digital switchover will mean numerous changes as the project sweeps region-by-region through the country up to 2012. To gear-up for this, JFMG has taken delivery of a dynamic White Space calculator. This new tool will enable us to track the changing face of White Space as the current analogue television signal is switched off and replaced by digital.

We are now fully equipped to support PMSE users who will need to migrate into the new White Space should Ofcom wish us to do so.

# Out & About...



Skylink is a collaboration between QinetiQ and Lions Air (a specialist aviation company).

## The London Marathon 2007

On Sunday 22nd April, after months of training, thousands of budding athletes prepared to take on their biggest challenge – the Flora London Marathon. From JFMG's perspective, this year saw the usual challenge of coordinating the event, along with the culmination of 6 months hard work for one member of the team.

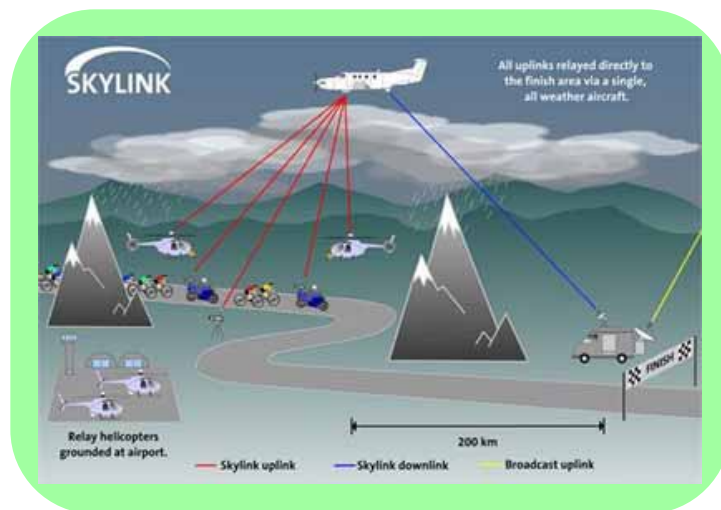
For us the coordination of the event is fairly standard. This year 169 frequencies were used to televise the race, including 55 wireless microphones, the majority of which were in the UHF TV bands set to be released through switchover. It also included frequencies for talkback as well as sound and vision links. One of the most interesting users of our valuable 2GHz band was the Skylink relay aircraft.

Skylink is different to the usual heli-telly set-up most commonly used for this type of outside broadcast. The aircraft circles at around 26,000 feet, and doesn't have a camera onboard like the helicopter set-up. Instead it carries a smart antenna that is able to receive pictures from 4 motorbike cameras along the route.

A single antenna tracks the location of each bike using 4 separate beams, negating the need for manual operation. In fact the aircraft only needs four people onboard to operate effectively. It then sends the pictures back to the production unit for use by the broadcasters' interactive service, allowing the viewer to select what section of the marathon they want to follow.

You never know, at one point the live feeds may have come across our very own Paul Gill reaching that metaphorical "wall". Paul had been training mercilessly for 6 months and managed to complete the course in a very respectable 4 hours and 3 minutes.

After achieving that time, in such unforgiving temperatures, there's no doubt the spectrum challenges we face in the coming years will prove no match for him...



How Skylink works

### 2 GHz consultation and JFMG bench tests



In our response to Ofcom's consultation on the possible auction of 2015-2025, 2200-2290 and 2500-2690 MHz we highlighted the results of our bench tests on Digital Wireless Cameras and the potential adjacent channel interference issues that could arise as a result of new services entering these bands.

As a result further tests will be conducted by Ofcom to verify these findings.

Read our response at:

<http://www.jfmg.co.uk/jfmgecom/Docs/JFMG2GHzConsultation%20Response.pdf>

or our bench test findings at:

<http://www.jfmg.co.uk/jfmgecom/Docs/Wireless%20Cameras.pdf>



Paul Gill with medal

# Next Steps...

## Online bookings – our first customer

In our October edition we introduced you to our new online Wireless Camera booking system. In this edition we ask its first ever user, Steve Ryder of Stryder.tv what he thought of the tool.

Steve owns a SNG truck for hire, and supplies all of the equipment required for an OB, including a wireless camera. His clients are the Broadcasters so he doesn't often need to purchase his own frequencies. But when he was asked to cover the Golden Joystick Awards on 27th October 2006, he needed to book his own assignments through JFMG.

Steve described coming across the booking tool on the website as a "happy accident", he was actually looking for a JFMG application form!

We asked Steve how he found using the tool..."it was easy to use and intuitive. You just log on and go to the tool, tick a couple of boxes and input your location. The system already has your licence details which makes it really straightforward. Now I've done it once I could probably do it again in two seconds flat!"

We asked Steve what benefits the tool could bring to his business over the old application system..."It will be of great benefit when I need access to frequencies at short notice...I'm on the road a lot and am a one-man band so I don't have an admin team at my disposal to handle this work for me. The tool enables me to access frequencies without delay via the laptop regardless of my location".

The next stage of development for our Wireless Camera booking system is to introduce a refundable reservation option..."Having a facility to pencil in frequencies for future jobs is a great idea. It's how the SNG business already works" Steve confirms.

Our online Wireless Camera Booking tool is available via the login facility on the JFMG website. If you would be interested in using the tool and would like us to provide you with a one-to-one demonstration please contact us at [admin@jfm.co.uk](mailto:admin@jfm.co.uk).



Steve Ryder with his Wireless Camera

## Wireless Microphone & In-Ear monitor booking tool

Our most recent online success is our wireless microphone and in-ear monitor booking tool. The system provides live coordination with broadcasting and other PMSE use to enable you to book wireless microphone and in-ear monitor frequencies within 470-854 MHz spectrum.

Soon we'll have a full toolkit that will enable our customers to book all of their frequency requirements online...Wireless cameras, microphones, in-ear monitors and talkback.

JFMG believe that online coordination tools are the future for spectrum management; especially in the current environment where demand is increasing, and spectrum provision reducing.

Our team have already visited a number of customers to demonstrate the tools and feedback has been positive. Watch this space for further updates on our final phases of development.

