

# ENSafrica telecoms and media in brief

Below, please find issue 15 of ENSafrica's telecoms and media in brief, a snapshot of the latest telecommunications and broadcasting developments in South Africa.

## telecommunications

- **GG43537 – 2020 GEN NN 800: Invitation to provide written comments on proposed policy and policy direction on rapid deployment of electronic communications networks and facilities**
  - On 22 July 2020, the Minister of Communication and Digital Technologies, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, published a notice of intention to issue the policy and policy direction on rapid deployment of electronic communications networks and facilities.
  - The stated purpose of the proposed policy is to provide clarity on the deployment of electronic communications networks and facilities while the purpose of the proposed policy direction is to direct the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (“**ICASA**”) to prescribe regulations on procedures and processes for resolving disputes that may arise between electronic communications network licensees and landowners. This aims to satisfy the public interest in the rapid rollout of electronic communications networks and electronic communications facilities.
  - The proposed policy provides that electronic communications network licensees have the right to enter upon and use public and private land for the deployment of electronic communications networks and facilities, subject to meeting certain conditions, including: notifying the property owner, ensuring a consultation process is conducted with the property owner and ensuring minimal damage to the property in question. The proposed policy also deals with matters relating to charging electronic communications network licensees a reasonable access fee in certain instances. The proposed policy can be accessed [here](#).
  - Interested persons are invited to provide written comments on the proposed policy and policy direction by 2 September 2020 (within 30 working days of the date of publication) addressed to:
    - The Acting Director-General, Department of Communications and Digital Technologies
    - For attention: Mr. A Wiltz, Chief Director, Telecommunications and IT Policy
    - First Floor, Block A3, iParioli Office Park, 1166 Park Street, Hatfield, Pretoria

- Private Bag X860, Pretoria, 0001
  - [rapid@dtps.gov.za](mailto:rapid@dtps.gov.za); Cell: 0837140126 (Mr L Motlatla)
- For assistance in drafting a response, please contact [Wilmari Strachan](#).
- **ICASA to issue invitations for the licensing of the radio frequency spectrum and wireless open access network**
  - On 2 July 2020, ICASA issued a media release announcing that it is preparing to publish the “invitation to apply” for both the Wireless Open Access Network (“**WOAN**”) and the International Mobile Telecommunications spectrum, also known as high demand spectrum in line with its strategic objectives, and as confirmed recently during its appearance in parliament.
  - The full media statement is accessible [here](#).

## broadcasting

- **GG43514 – 2020 GEN NN 759: General Notice – Policy Direction on the Introduction of DSB in South Africa**
  - On 10 July 2020, the Minister of Communication and Digital Technologies, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams issued the policy direction on the introduction on the introduction of digital sound broadcasting (“**DSB**”) in South Africa, asking ICASA to expedite the licensing of digital radio broadcasting services in South Africa.
  - In terms of the Policy Direction, ICASA is directed to determine priorities for the establishment of digital broadcasting network services to introduce DSB services alongside the existing analogue sound broadcasting (FM and AM).
  - The Policy Direction requests that the following DSB standards be considered:
  - DRM30 (digital radio mondiale) to complement AM radio in the band 535.5kHz to 1 606kHz.
  - DRM+ to complement FM radio in the band 87.5MHz to 108MHz and in the allocated VHF sound broadcasting band of 214MHz to 230MHz.
  - DAB+ (digital audio broadcasting) to complement VHF sound broadcasting services in the allocated VHF band 214MHz to 230MHz.
  - All DAB and DRM variants should complement existing analogue radio in any other applicable band within the confines of the radio frequency plan and consistent with International Telecommunication Union regulations.

## in the news

- **ICASA and NMISA agree on collaborative arrangement through an MOU**
  - On 8 July 2020, ICASA announced that it has entered into a strategic collaboration agreement with the National Metrology Institute of South Africa (“**NMISA**”). The memorandum of understanding (“**MOU**”) provides for an exchange of information and expertise between the parties and will also enable the establishment of a framework for regulations related to electronic

communications to be informed and supported by measurement science, or metrology.

- The full media statement is available [here](#).

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