Bureau Telecommunications and Post St. Maarten

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POST REGULATORY AUTHORITY ST.MAARTEN

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Presentation Subjects

- Bureau Telecommunications and Post St. Maarten (BTPSXM) background
- BTPSXM Challenges
- Spectrum Related Issues
- Net Neutrality

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BTPSXM Background

- Since 10-10-2010 the regulator of Dutch St. Maarten
- Responsible for telecommunication and postal regulation
- The organization has ten employees

Main Challenges

- Introduction of a new regulatory framework

- Definition of QoS / QoE requirements for the telecommunications (ICT) industry

- Switching from the Netherlands Antilles (NA) Numbering Plan to the North American Numbering Plan

Main Challenges

- Switching from the .NA ccTLD to the .SX ccTLD

- Frequency coordination with neighboring islands
  - Tripartite (ANFR, PUC, BTPSXM) coordination agreements covering
    - FM Broadcasting
    - UHF TV (DVB-T)
    - Mobile frequency bands

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Frequency Coordination

- LTE spectrum allocation
  - 1800 frequency band (b3)
    - 150 operators globally launched commercial networks in 71 countries and territories while 23 more are being deployed (source GSA, September 2014)
    - 944 devices
  - Operators will be assigned 20MHz (2x10MHz carriers) in the 1800 MHz frequency band
  - Alternative frequency bands for LTE 700 (b28), 800 (b20), 900 (b8), 2600 (b7)

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Net Neutrality Definitions

- The ability of all Internet users to access the content or applications of their choice.

- Assurance that all traffic on the Internet is treated equally, whatever its source, content or destination.

- Absence of unreasonable discrimination on the part of network operators in transmitting Internet traffic.

BTPSXM Position

- In favor of Net Neutrality, but has not provided a working definition for such to the industry to date

- BTPSXM is determined to bring fair access to bandwidth and content access across all networks to all citizens and visitors of St. Maarten

- BTPSXM is in favor of transparency, no blocking, or unreasonable discrimination

mVoIP OTT

- Globally operators attitude towards mVoIP OTT players varies depending on market conditions and the position of the operator.

- Regulator attitude towards OTT varies depending on the stage of development in the country.
  - Regulators in the US, the EU, and Japan, enforce net neutrality, and promote openness and lack of discrimination.
  - They still tacitly still allow certain forms of blocking
  - Some regulators in developing countries have ruled against mVoIP OTT, and allowed the blocking thereof.

Source: Dr. Thunström, B., Almqvist, E., Lasku, A., & Dr. Taga, K. (2011). Disruptive Threat or Innovative Opportunity?: Scenarios for Mobile Voice OTT. Retrieved November 17, 2014 from http://www.adlittle.com/downloads/tx_adlreports/ADL_OTT_Disruptive_threat_or_innovative_opportunity_v2_01.pdf

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Sir Tim Berners-Lee

- It's imperative that the web remain free and open to everyone, and that we — its users — take an active role in ensuring that. "If we want a web that is truly for everyone, then everyone must play a role in shaping its next 25 years.

Thank You!

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