

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Spectrum Award 2015- Continues at Pace

**31 July 2015** - The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission ("Commission") is pleased to confirm that the Public Consultation on the Spectrum Award 2015 is continuing on schedule.

The aim of the Spectrum Award is to provide the three mobile operators with an opportunity to compete for the award of mobile frequencies that will be used to deliver high speed mobile broadband services using LTE Technology.

Each of LIME, Digicel and CCT responded with their comments to the Consultation Document and Draft Invitation to Apply for spectrum, as required on 28 July 2015. The Commission will take their comments into account in finalising the Invitation to Apply and Frequency Licence.

The Commission is confident that the release and implementation of services will be of substantial benefit to the entire economy and particularly valuable to the financial services and tourism sectors.

The new Board of the Commission would welcome comments from businesses, trade associations and members of the public in relation to this competitive award described in the Consultation Document [[Spectrum Award 2015 – Consultation Document](#)].

The Commission expects to issue the formal Invitation to Apply and draft Frequency Authorisation in late August. Only those operators who are in material compliance with their obligations under the Telecommunications Act 2006, their existing licences and instructions from the Commission will be eligible to submit an Application. The Applications will be due by the end of September.

Following the comparative evaluation, the Commission expects to grant Frequency Authorisations in accordance with the stated criteria at the end of October 2015.

The Commission would like to avoid any confusion in relation to the Spectrum Award and clarify that until the Spectrum Award 2015 is complete, no operator in the Virgin Islands is authorised to offer mobile 4G LTE services using the spectrum to be awarded. The recent launch of LTE-based residential services do not offer mobile 4G LTE services. These services do not use frequencies covered by the Spectrum Award.

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

1. The Commission is the independent regulator with responsibility for regulating the telecommunications sector of the Virgin Islands, protecting interests of users of telecommunications services, ensuring fair competition among operators of telecommunications networks and providers of telecommunications services, promoting the development of telecommunications throughout the Virgin Islands and advising the Minister of Communications and Works on telecommunications policies.
2. Spectrum is a key input to meeting rapid demand for mobile data and voice services and supporting the provision of efficient, resilient and widely available communications services and infrastructure in the Virgin Islands.
3. The Commission's consistent objective has been to ensure that the offered spectrum is made available as soon as possible and accordance with its objectives and duties and on a competitive basis - allowing choice and promoting quality of service.
4. The Spectrum Award 2015 project began on 6 May 2015. Notice of the Consultation was first published on Saturday, 13 June 2015. The Commission announced the Public Consultation on 30 June 2015. Documents may be found on the Commission's website - [www.trc.vg](http://www.trc.vg)"