

Guidelines for Broadcasting Radio Spectrum Licenses

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DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

ictQATAR: Supreme Council of Information & Communication Technology (ictQATAR) is the regulator in Qatar established under Emiree decree Law No. 36 for 2004 and as further defined in Emiree decree Law No. 34 of 2006.

ETSI: European Telecommunications Standards Institute is an independent, non-profit, standardization organization in the telecommunications industry (equipment makers and network operators) in Europe, with worldwide projection.

ITU: International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies – ICTs. It allocates global radio spectrum and satellite orbits and develops the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect.

ITU-R: ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) is one of the three sectors (divisions or units) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and is responsible for radio communication.

Broadcasting stations are used to transmit broadcasting content. There are two types of broadcasting stations: terrestrial and satellite. These guidelines apply to the terrestrial broadcasting stations only. For information, relating to licensing of satellite broadcasting stations the guidelines for earth station licenses may be consulted. Historically all terrestrial stations in Qatar have been using analogue technology. However keeping in line with the global & regional trend towards adoption of more efficient digital technology, the digital switchover in Qatar is planned to be completed by Jun 30, 2015. The legacy analogue broadcasting stations use either MF/HF, VHF or UHF spectrum for transmission. Because of the long distance propagation characteristics of electromagnetic waves in MF/HF, VHF and UHF bands the spectrum planning is done at the regional or international level in order to ensure the interference free operation of stations. Qatar is a part of the following ITU regional plans regarding the broadcasting services:

Plan Name	Frequency Bands
GE-75	LF: 150-285 kHz MF: 525-1605 kHz
GE-84	Band II: 87.5 - 108 MHz
GE-06	Band III: 174-230 MHz Band IV: 470-582 MHz Band V: 582-862 MHz

The sections below detail the licensing requirement and technical parameters relating to each licensing category.

Annex A to these guidelines provides the templates of the licenses along-with the specific terms and conditions and technical schedule(s).

Annex B to these guidelines provides the application processing procedure.

Annex C to these guidelines provides application form to be used for license applications, modifications, renewals or cancellations. The application form describes the information and any documents that need to be provided for the application to be processed.

1. ANALOGUE RADIO BROADCASTING

There are two types of licenses available to operate analogue radio broadcasting stations:

- Commercial broadcasting radio station license
- Community broadcasting radio station license

These sub categories of analogue broadcasting station licenses are being illustrated below:

1.1 Summary of Licensee's responsibilities

Licensees are generally responsible to ensure that:

- a) equipment is deployed, operated and maintained to meet the regulations and the terms of the license and to prevent undue interference.
- b) The licensee is required to cease operation immediately if there is interference experienced into aeronautical services operating in the adjacent frequency band or to other broadcasting services.
- c) relevant operational staff of the licensee are trained and certified by the licensee to be competent to undertake their roles.
- d) records of the systems included within the license are maintained, which shall be made available to ictQATAR for inspection on request.
- e) the license is current and renewed in a timely manner.

See Annex A for detailed terms and conditions.

1.2 Commercial Radio Station License

This section provides information on the legal and technical considerations for the issuing of a commercial broadcasting radio station license. Apart from the high power analogue stations, which are already being assigned frequencies at particular locations as per GE-84 plan, there is no guarantee that a license can be issued for low power stations. It depends on whether it is possible to allocate frequencies at the particular geographic location, with the transmitter power requested, without causing interference to other broadcasting stations or into aeronautical services.

Low power stations are allowed with a coverage radius of up to maximum of 10 km.

1.2.1 Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicants who may apply for a Local Commercial Radio Station License are:

- a) a broadcasting company registered in the State of Qatar and holding a license/authorization from Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage to provide commercial broadcasting content in the state of Qatar.
- b) a foreign broadcasting company that will meet the requirements specified in the approval granted by the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage.

1.2.2 Technical details

The frequencies from the band 87.5 – 108 MHz are assigned with 300 kHz maximum channel bandwidth.

The effective radiated power is dependent on the co-ordination process, which addresses the effect of potential interference to other broadcast assignments in the band and also to the adjacent frequency bands.

In the case of sub-carrier systems no supplementary subcarrier systems other than those conforming to the RDS specification (IEC 62106) will be allowed.

Radio equipment for FM radio broadcasting has to meet the applicable Type Approval requirements in accordance with the Type Approval Guidelines for Radio Equipment and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment. The ictQATAR Type Approval requirements

identify applicable reference ETSI standards EN 301 489-11 and EN 302 018-2. In addition, the equipment is required to comply with the requirements of ITU-R BS. 450-3.

1.3 Community Radio Station

This section provides information on the technical considerations for the issuing of licenses for Community Radio Stations. These licenses are for small-scale, not-for-profit organizations. The license may cater for the requirements of various user groups in society with different areas of interest – such as a particular ethnic group, age group or interest group. These radio stations typically cover a small geographical area within a coverage radius of up to 5km.

1.3.1 Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicants who may apply for a Community Radio Station License are companies registered in the State of Qatar and that can meet the requirements specified in the community broadcasting license/approval granted by the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage.

1.3.2 Technical details

Like Commercial Broadcasting Radio Station license, the frequencies from the band 87.5 – 108 MHz are assigned with 300 kHz maximum channel bandwidth.

The effective radiated power is dependent on the co-ordination process, which addresses the effect of potential interference with other broadcast assignments in the band and with adjacent band users.

Radio equipment for FM radio broadcasting has to meet the applicable Type Approval requirements in accordance with the Type Approval Guidelines for Radio Equipment and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment. The ictQATAR type approval requirements identify applicable reference ETSI standards EN 301 489-11 and EN 302 018-2. In addition, the equipment is required to comply with the requirements of ITU-R BS. 450-3.

2. DIGITAL RADIO BROADCASTING

It is ictQATAR's intention to facilitate the provision of both digital terrestrial Radio and TV services based on the frequencies allocated at the 2006 Regional Radiocommunications Conference (RRC-06) and referred to as the Geneva Plan (GE-06).

Licenses for digital radio and digital TV communication are issued to Multiplexer Network Operators and are available on a first-come first-served (FCFS) basis with the condition that the content of only such organizations will be distributed that hold valid license/authorization to offer broadcast content from the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage.

2.1 Summary of Licensee's responsibilities

Licensees are generally responsible to ensure that:

- a) Entities carrying valid license/authorization to offer broadcast content from the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage are allowed for distribution of the content through the network.
- b) equipment is deployed, operated and maintained to meet the regulations and the terms of the license and to prevent undue interference.

- c) relevant operational staff of the licensee are trained and certified by the licensee to be competent to undertake their roles.
- d) records of the systems included within the license are maintained, which shall be made available to ictQATAR for inspection on request.
- e) the license is current and renewed in a timely manner.

See Annex A for detailed terms and conditions.

2.2 Digital Terrestrial TV Multiplexer Network License

This section provides information on the technical considerations for the issuing of a license for a digital terrestrial TV broadcast multiplexer network that will allow the licensee to transmit either national or regional broadcast programmes of authorized broadcasting companies.

2.2.1 Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicant who may apply for the License must be a company registered in the State of Qatar for the purpose of distribution of broadcasting content.

2.2.2 Technical details

The spectrum is mainly assigned by ictQATAR in accordance with the frequency channels decided in the digital TV broadcasting plan that was agreed in the GE-06 plan but excluding those frequencies that have subsequently been agreed internationally & regionally for wireless broadband i.e. 690-790 MHz and 790-862 MHz bands (See table 1 below).

The deployment of latest technologies is encouraged to maximise use of the available frequencies. In this regard DVB-T2 standard has been approved for deployment for which ETSI standard EN 302 775 is to be followed by the licensees.

Table 1. Digital broadcasting frequency plan

Transmitter Location	Channels	Frequencies (MHz)
Abu Samra	42,45	642,666
Al Amiriyah	39	618
Al Arish	24,29	498, 618
Al Khor	45	666
Al Ruwais	21,68	474,850
Al Udaid	23,50,51,52,59	490,706,714,722,778
Al Wakra	27,29	522,536
Dukhan	25,51,59	506,714,778

Ghuwairiya	54	738
Halul	58,62,63	770,802,826
Julaiha	24,49,50,58	498,698,706,770
Jumailiah	49(H&V),52	698,722
Markhiyah	21,37,42	474,602,642
Mufaidh	27,68	522,850
Mukainiss	31,66	554,834
Shahaniyah	5,7,9,60	177.5,191.5,205.5,786
Sudantheel	54	738

2.3 Digital Terrestrial Audio Multiplexer Network License

This section provides information on the technical considerations for the issuing of a license for a digital terrestrial radio multiplexer network license that will allow the licensee to transmit either national or regional broadcast programmes.

2.3.1 Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicant who may apply for a Digital Terrestrial Radio License must be a company registered in the State of Qatar for the distribution of broadcasting content.

2.3.2 Technical details

The spectrum is mainly assigned by ictQATAR in accordance with the national digital radio broadcasting plan. The deployment of latest technologies is encouraged by ictQATAR. In this regard, T- DAB has been approved to be deployed in Band III on the agreed frequencies as per the GE-06 plan.

In order to deploy and operate T-DAB standard the ETSI standards TS 102 563 and EN 301 489-11 are to be followed.

2.4 Digital Video Broadcasting - Handheld (DVB-H) Multiplexer Network License

This section provides information on the technical considerations for the issuing of a license for digital video broadcasting - handheld Multiplexer network license for providing broadcasting services to handheld devices that will allow the licensee to transmit either regional or national broadcast programmes of authorized broadcasting companies.

2.4.1 Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicant who may apply for a Digital Video Broadcasting- Handheld license must be a company registered in the State of Qatar for the distribution of broadcasting content.

2.4.2 Technical details

The proposed network must be in accordance with the national digital radiobroadcasting plan. The applicable ETSI standard to be followed is ETSI EN 302 304.

3. MONITORING BEFORE STATION DEPLOYMENT

Before deployment of any type of broadcasting station, the monitoring is done by ictQATAR's monitoring team to ensure that the station at the approved location do not receive/emit any interference from/to any local or foreign station.

4. NOTE ON APPLICABLE STANDARDS

Any type of broadcasting equipment requires type approval as defined by the ictQATAR Type Approval Guidelines for Radio Equipment and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment¹, which define the applicable standards.

5. SPECTRUM FEES

Please see the "Schedule of Radio Spectrum Fees" available on ictQATAR's website for details.

6. CONTACT DETAILS

For further queries, please contact:

Manager Spectrum Affairs,
Regulatory Authority,
The Supreme Council of Information & Communication Technology (ictQATAR)
P.O. Box 23264, Al Nassr Tower, Post Office Roundabout, Al Corniche,
Doha, Qatar
Fax: 44830630
Email: spectrumaffairs@ict.gov.qa

¹ http://www.ictqatar.qa/sites/default/files/documents/Type_Approval_Guidelines.pdf

ANNEX A: LICENSE TEMPLATES AND TERMS & CONDITIONS



دولة قطر

State of Qatar

المجلس الأعلى للاتصالات و تكنولوجيا المعلومات

ictQATAR

Regulatory Authority

Commercial Broadcasting Station license

The Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology ("ictQATAR"), in exercising the powers conferred on it by Articles (3) and (4) of Decree Law No. (34) of 2006, grants to the Licensee specified, authorisation to keep, have possession of, install, maintain, work and use a commercial radio broadcasting station as per the general terms and conditions for radio spectrum licensing, specific terms & conditions, special conditions (if any) and technical schedule (s) of this license.

License Number:

Licensee:

Address:

License Type:

Commencement and Termination Dates:

The License comes into effect on DD/MM/YY and subject to revocation or suspension, expires on DD/MM/YY unless renewed in accordance with the Regulations.

Signed:

On behalf of the Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology ("ictQATAR")

Date:

Official Stamp

Specific Terms & Conditions	
1. Technical Conditions	<p>1.1. The licensee must cease operation immediately if there is interference experienced into aeronautical mobile services operating in the adjacent frequency band.</p>
2. Definitions	<p>2.1. Aeronautical Mobile Service: means a mobile communication service between aeronautical stations and aircraft stations, or between aircraft stations.</p>
Special Conditions	
Technical Schedule (1)	
<p>This schedule forms part of the Commercial Radio Broadcast Station License No. XXXX issued to XXXX, the Licensee on [Date].</p>	
Frequency channel	
location (Lat and Long)	
Site name /address	
Channel bandwidth	
Transmitter power (e.r.p.) (W)	
Equipment manufacturer	
Equipment model	
Antenna height	



دولة قطر

State of Qatar

المجلس الأعلى للاتصالات و تكنولوجيا المعلومات

ictQATAR

Regulatory Authority

Community Radio Broadcast Station license

The Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology ("ictQATAR"), in exercising the powers conferred on it by Articles (3) and (4) of Decree Law No. (34) of 2006, grants to the Licensee specified, authorisation to keep, have possession of, install, maintain, work and use a community radio broadcasting station as per the general terms and conditions for radio spectrum licensing, specific terms & conditions, special conditions (if any) and technical schedule (s) of this License.

License Number:

Licensee:

Address:

License Type:

Commencement and Termination Dates:

The License comes into effect on DD/MM/YY and subject to revocation or suspension, expires on DD/MM/YY unless renewed in accordance with the Regulations.

Signed:

On behalf of the Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology ("ictQATAR")

Date:

Official Stamp

Specific Terms & Conditions	
1. Technical Conditions	<p>1.1. The licensee must cease operation immediately if there is interference experienced into aeronautical mobile services operating in the adjacent frequency band.</p>
2. Definitions	<p>2.1. Aeronautical Mobile Service: means a mobile communication service between aeronautical stations and aircraft stations, or between aircraft stations.</p>
Special Conditions	
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دولة قطر

State of Qatar

المجلس الأعلى للاتصالات و تكنولوجيا المعلومات

ictQATAR

Regulatory Authority

Digital Terrestrial TV Multiplexer Network license

The Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology ("ictQATAR"), in exercising the powers conferred on it by Articles (3) and (4) of Decree Law No. (34) of 2006, grants to the Licensee specified, authorisation to keep, have possession of, install, maintain, work and use a digital Terrestrial TV multiplexer network which can be used to distribute authorized broadcasting content over the specified geographic area as per the general terms and conditions for radio spectrum licensing, special conditions (if any) and technical schedule (s) of this License.

License Number:

Licensee:

Address:

License Type:

Commencement and Termination Dates:

The License comes into effect on DD/MM/YY and subject to revocation or suspension, expires on DD/MM/YY unless renewed in accordance with the Regulations.

Signed:

On behalf of the Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology ("ictQATAR")

Date:

Official Stamp

Special Conditions									
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.....									
.....									
Technical Schedule (1)									
This schedule forms part of the Digital Terrestrial TV Multiplexer Network License No. XXXX issued to XXXX, the Licensee on [Date].									
Frequency channel									
Maximum power allowed									
Field intensity at the edge of the area									
Standard									
Geographic Area:									
Northern limit:	Lat:		Long:		Western limit:	Lat:		Long:	
Southern limit:	Lat:		Long:		Eastern limit:	Lat:		Long:	
OR									
Centre point:	Lat:		Long:		Radius (kms)				



دولة قطر

State of Qatar

المجلس الأعلى للاتصالات و تكنولوجيا المعلومات

ictQATAR

Regulatory Authority

Digital Terrestrial Audio Multiplexer Network License

The Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology ("ictQATAR"), in exercising the powers conferred on it by Articles (3) and (4) of Decree Law No. (34) of 2006, grants to the Licensee specified, authorisation to keep, have possession of, install, maintain, work and use a digital Territorial Audio multiplexer network which can be used to distribute authorized broadcasting content over the specified geographic area as per the general terms and conditions for radio spectrum licensing, special conditions (if any) and technical schedule (s) of this License.

License Number:

Licensee:

Address:

License Type:

Commencement and Termination Dates:

The License comes into effect on DD/MM/YY and subject to revocation or suspension, expires on DD/MM/YY unless renewed in accordance with the Regulations.

Signed:

On behalf of the Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology ("ictQATAR")

Date:

Official Stamp

Special Conditions

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Technical Schedule (1)

This schedule forms part of the Digital Terrestrial Audio Multiplexer Network License No. XXXX issued to XXXX, the Licensee on [Date].

Frequency channel										
Maximum power allowed										
Field intensity at the edge of the area										
Standard										
Geographic Area:										
Northern limit:	Lat:		Long:		Western limit:	Lat:		Long:		
Southern limit:	Lat:		Long:		Eastern limit:	Lat:		Long:		
OR										
Centre point:	Lat:		Long:		Radius (kms)					



دولة قطر

State of Qatar

المجلس الأعلى للاتصالات و تكنولوجيا المعلومات

ictQATAR

Regulatory Authority

Digital Video Broadcast-Handheld Multiplexer Network License

The Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology ("ictQATAR"), in exercising the powers conferred on it by Articles (3) and (4) of Decree Law No. (34) of 2006, grants to the Licensee specified, authorisation to keep, have possession of, install, maintain, work and use a multiplexer network which can be used to distribute authorized broadcasting content over the specified geographic area as per the general terms and conditions for radio spectrum licensing, specific terms & conditions, special conditions (if any) and technical schedule (s) of this License.

License Number:

Licensee:

Address:

License Type:

Commencement and Termination Dates:

The License comes into effect on DD/MM/YY and subject to revocation or suspension, expires on DD/MM/YY unless renewed in accordance with the Regulations.

Signed:

On behalf of the Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology ("ictQATAR")

Date:

Official Stamp

Special Conditions

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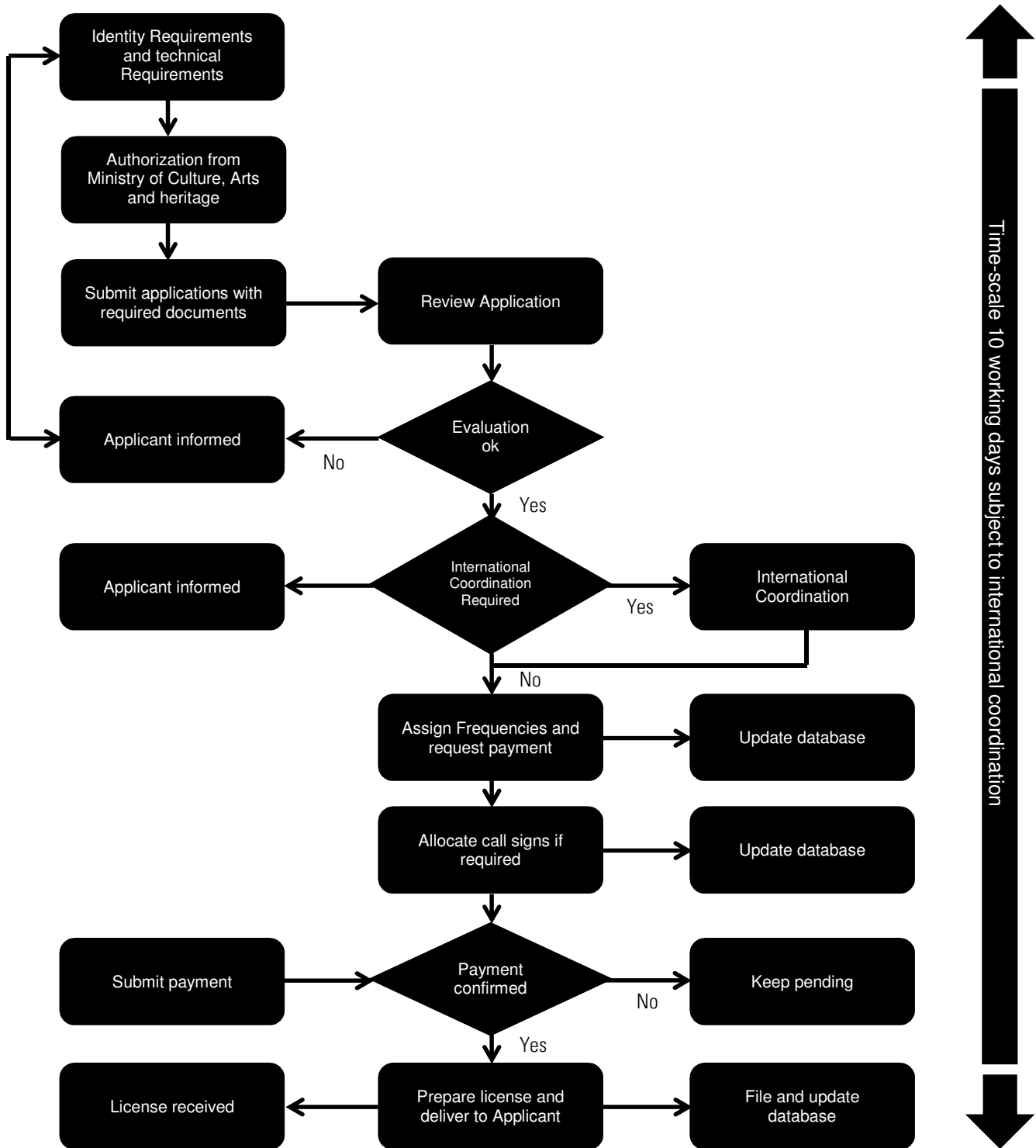
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Technical Schedule (1)

This schedule forms part of the Digital Video Broadcasting-handheld Multiplexer Network License No. XXXX issued to XXXX, the Licensee on [Date].

Frequency channel										
Maximum power allowed										
Field intensity at the edge of the area										
Standard										
Geographic Area:										
Northern limit:	Lat:		Long:		Western limit:	Lat:		Long:		
Southern limit:	Lat:		Long:		Eastern limit:	Lat:		Long:		
OR										
Centre point:	Lat:		Long:		Radius (kms)					

ANNEX B: APPLICATION PREPROCESSING PROCEDURE



ANNEX C: APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT'S DECLARATION

1.1 I declare that:

- the information provided in this application is complete and correct;
- any equipment and / or radio spectrum licensed as a result of this application will be used in compliance with ictQATAR Laws and Regulations;
- I / we will notify ictQATAR of any changes to the information provided;
- I am authorized to sign this application on behalf of the applicant.

1.2 Name:

1.6 Company stamp (if applicable):

1.3 Position:

1.4 Signature:

1.5 Date:

APPLICANT INFORMATION

2.1 ictQATAR Customer Number:

Please note. If you have an existing customer number and have previously provided the following information you need only complete the Applicant Information sections if your details need to be amended in our records.

2.2 Name / Company / Organisation:

2.3 Nationality / Place of registration:

2.4 Profession:

2.5 PO Box:

2.6 Address:

2.7 Main contact:

2.10 Position:

2.8 Contact email:

2.11 Mobile Tel:

2.9 Office Tel:

2.12 Fax:

INVOICING INFORMATION (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)

3.1 Name / Company / Organisation:

3.2 PO Box:

3.3 Address:

3.4 Invoicing contact:

3.7 Position:

3.5 Contact email:

3.8 Mobile Tel:

3.6 Office Tel:

3.9 Fax:

APPLICATION TYPE (TICK AS APPROPRIATE)

New application:

Renewal:

Modification:

Cancellation:

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Please send* completed applications to:

* by fax, post, courier or hand deliver.

Regulatory Authority – Spectrum Affairs
 The Supreme Council of Information & Communication Technology (ictQATAR)
 P.O. Box 23264, Al Nassr Tower, Post Office Roundabout, Al Corniche,
 Doha, Qatar

For Spectrum Planning Section:

Date Received:

Approved:

Not Approved:

License Number:

Staff No.

Remarks:

Date Completed:

For Spectrum Management Section:

Date Received:

Approved:

Not Approved:

License Number:

Staff No.

Remarks:

Date Completed:

TYPE OF LICENSE APPLIED FOR

1.1 Commercial Radio Broadcasting (FM)

1.2 Community Radio broadcasting (FM)

1.6 Digital Terrestrial TV

1.7 Digital Terrestrial Radio

1.8 Digital Video Broadcasting - handheld

MULTIPLEXER/TRANSMITTER SITE DATA (For each Multiplexer/Transmitter in the Network)

2.1 Requested start date of license:

Transmitter/ Multiplexer site information:

2.1 Site address

2.2 Site coordinates

Technical details:

2.6 Frequency /channel

2.8 Transmitter power

2.9 Equipment manufacturer

2.10 Equipment model

2.11 Antenna Manufacturer

2.12 Antenna Model

2.13 Antenna type

2.14 Antenna height

2.15 Antenna polarisation

2.16 Antenna radiation pattern
(if directional, state direction and max ERP)

2.17 Service area

2.18 Service offered

2.19 Operation Hours (Local Time)

2.20 Area for which license is required*:

Centre point:

Lat:

Long:

Radius (kms)

or

Northern limit:	Lat:		Long:		Western limit:	Lat:		Long:	
Southern limit:	Lat:		Long:		Eastern limit:	Lat:		Long:	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION									

*** For Digital Terrestrial Multiplexer Network Licenses**

DOCUMENTS TO BE ENCLOSED (FOR NEW APPLICATION)
Copy of CR
Copy of Corporate card
Authorization from Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage (For Analogue Broadcasting Radio Station Licenses)
Network diagram
Detailed Technical Specifications
DOCUMENTS TO BE ENCLOSED (FOR CANCELLATION)
Copy of receipt of final payment
Original license
Copy of the shipment document (Airway bill & packing list) or Declaration that equipment will be written-off under the supervision of ictQATAR staff