

Technical Report ("Frequenztechnisches Gutachten – Erstellung eines Räumungsszenarios des 700 MHz Bandes"): Executive Summary

The Austrian administration finished successfully the negotiations with the neighbouring administrations regarding the re-planning of the 700 MHz band for broadcasting services at the end of 2017. During the re-planning process, for all existing broadcasting channels in the 700 MHz band in Austria an alternative channel below the 700 MHz band was achieved. This result was, inter alia, possible due to the fact, that with the replacement of the DVB-T system by the DVB-T2 system the existing broadcasting SFN networks could be enlarged significantly.

The bilateral agreements for the future usage of the band 470 MHz to 695 MHz, containing the new frequency plan for broadcasting services without the 700 MHz band, were signed on the dates according to the following table.

Table 1: Dates of bilateral agreements with neighbouring administrations

Bilateral agreements	Date of signature
Austria – Czech Republic	04.12.2017
Austria – Hungary	05.12.2017
Austria – Slovenia	05.12.2017
Austria – Croatia	05.12.2017
Austria – Bosnia and Herzegovina	05.12.2017
Austria – Italy	01.12.2017
Austria – Slovakia	19.12.2017
ADSL*)	11.01.2018

*) ADSL concerns Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. The re-planning was finished in 2017; the signature was done afterwards by correspondence

Some of the channels in the 700 MHz band on some transmitter sites in Austria were already switched over to the final agreed channels below the 700 MHz band, e.g. in the region of Linz. This was done during the latest switch over of the MUX A platform from DVB-T to DVB-T2. In some regions close to the border to Germany, some channels of the new frequency plan for Austria will be only available after some existing broadcasting transmitters in Germany have changed their channels. The reason behind this procedure is the so-called “domino effect” of the channel re-planning, where the change of channels have to follow a certain order to avoid interruption of receiving the TV programmes by the audience. Furthermore, also some transmitters using channels below the 700 MHz band will have to change their channels to implement the agreed new frequency plan. For the necessary channel changes in the broadcasting networks along the border with Germany, the following timetable was set up:

Table 2: Agreed timetable with Germany for changes of TV channels along the border

Transmitter:	ch/(new/old)	available	Transmitters to be changed in Germany
BREGENZ 1 - Pfänder	25 (59)	04/2018	Pfaffenhofen/Gelbelsee
BREGENZ 1 - Pfänder	22 (42)	07/2019	Ulm/Donauesschingen/Ravensburg/Raichberg
BREGENZ 1 - Pfänder	41 (55)	07/2019	Donauesschingen
REUTTE 1 - Hahnenkamm	25 (29)	04/2018	Pfaffenhofen/Gelbelsee
KUFSTEIN - Kitzbüheler Horn	42 (22)	07/2019	Hohe Linie/Hoher Bogen
SALZBURG - Gaisberg	42 (55)	07/2019	Hohe Linie/Hoher Bogen
BAD ISCHL - Katrin	42 (55)	07/2019	Hohe Linie/Hoher Bogen

In the Vienna region, the replacement channels of TV channel 60 and TV channel 53 will be available at the latest in February 2021 according to the bilateral agreement with Czech Republic. Because of the new frequency plan, the broadcasting network operators in Czech Republic have to release the TV channels 30 and 47, which are still in use in Czech Republic close to the border to Austria. There are still ongoing bilateral negotiations between Austria and Czech Republic regarding a possible release of the channels latest at the end of June 2020. With the administration of Hungary, there is a similar situation on TV channel 52 in the region “Niederösterreich Süd” and “Burgenland Nord”. According to the new frequency plan and the bilateral agreement between Austria and Hungary the replacement channel of channel 52, which is the TV channel 24, will be available for Austria at the latest after the 6th of September 2020.

All other existing broadcasting channels in the 700 MHz band in Austria have a prepared and internationally agreed replacement channel, which is available immediately. The high power high tower broadcasting transmitters in Austria, which still use TV channels in the 700 MHz band, have a valid national licence until 2023. It is not yet decided when exactly the TV multiplex operators in Austria will apply for all of the prepared and available replacement channels below the 700 MHz band.