



**A series of 3 interactive virtual events, taking place on 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> April  
All times are Central European Summer Time / CEST (UCT +2)**

Covid-19 has impacted the spectrum and connectivity world, in the same way as it has done to almost every aspect of society. It is putting an unprecedented strain on connectivity and broadband networks around the world, and is potentially going to delay the release of key spectrum bands as well as the ongoing roll-out of 5G and other next generation systems. However at the same time, many countries are looking at spectrum as a key tool to help tackle this global crisis.

This series of panel discussions, held on consecutive days (28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> April) will look at all these issues and more, and at how governments, regulators and industry are working to keep the world connected and facing up to the current challenges that we all face.

## **SESSION 1: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April (Starting time: 14:00 CET / 08:00 EDT)**

14:00 – 14:10 **Introduction and welcome**

**Dan Craft**, Managing Director, Forum Europe

### **Keynote Interview – How is Covid-19 affecting early preparation for WRC-23?**

14:10 – 14:40 **Keynote Interview with Mario Maniewicz, Director, BR, ITU**

Interviewed by **Janette Stewart**, Principal, Analysys Mason

14:40 – 15:00 **Virtual Networking Break**

### **Keeping the World Connected in Times of Crisis**

The current lockdown and huge increase in home-working is putting enormous pressure on communications networks as well as serving to highlight the critical importance of connectivity for business continuity, communicating key messages to citizens, and maintaining family connections. Taken more broadly, it is truly shining a light on the impact of the Digital Divide at such times of crisis. This session will look at measures that are being taken by governments and industry around the world to ensure the continuation of strong, robust connectivity services and at some of the challenges that are being faced.

- What measures are being taken by governments, regulators and industry around the world to maintain connectivity during this time, particularly given the increased strain on networks caused by the lockdown?
- To what extent is there an argument in the current situation for regulators to consider a relaxation of competition rules or net neutrality for mobile operators? Or even to allow MNOs to share spectrum temporarily?
- How can governments ensure that vital information and services are being delivered universally to all citizens, particularly in the developing world and outlying/rural areas? What impact will the lack of communications infrastructure have in these areas?
- What technologies and solutions are being used to keep the most remote parts of the world connected?
- What challenges are faced when maintaining critical communications infrastructure and meeting an unprecedented surge in remote broadband connectivity, particularly given current travel restrictions and its impact on logistics?

15:00 – 15:05 **Introduction and welcome**

**Dan Craft**, Managing Director, Forum Europe

**Johanne Lemay**, Co-President, LYA

15:05 – 15:10 **Setting the scene – 5 minute introduction from moderator**

15:10 – 16:15 **Panel Discussion – 1 hour 5 minutes**

#### **Panellists:**

**Ajit Pai**, Chairman, FCC (tbc)

**Jeremy Godfrey**, Commissioner, ComReg & Vice Chair, BEREC

**Aarti Holla**, Secretary General, ESOA

**Ulf Pehrsson**, Head of Government and Industry Relations, Ericsson

**Johan Keetelaar**, Director, Facebook

16:15 – 16:45 **'Have your say...'**

**Led by Johanne Lemay**, Co-President, LYA and Amit Nagpal, Partner, Aetha Consulting

An interactive discussion and networking session - audience members will have the chance to take the floor and give their thoughts on the discussions that have taken place in the previous panel.

16:45 – 17:15 **Virtual Networking Reception**

An opportunity for attendees to visit our virtual networking lounge or browse the virtual exhibition area. Sponsors and partners will also host private networking rooms, and will invite participants to join them to continue discussions.

## **The impact of Covid-19 on Spectrum Awards and Valuation**

A number of planned spectrum awards have been postponed or are in doubt given the current situation. This session will look at how plans in countries all around the world are having to be adapted and at how this is affecting the scheduled award and release of spectrum bands all around the world. It will also look at the impact that the uncertainty being created by Covid-19 may have on spectrum valuations.

- What is the current situation regarding auctions and awards that had been planned for 2020 around the world, and how are plans being affected?
- Will the current situation delay the release of spectrum identified for new services such as 5G/IMT?
- To what extent could there be a possibility for regulators to re-plan future awards and look to bring several different bands to market at the same time?
- What impact might the current uncertainty and also the possibility of a recession have on the value of spectrum?
- Is there a risk that fears of reduced demand for connectivity or less willingness from consumers to purchase 4G, 5G or other spectrum related services, could lead to a drop in the value of certain spectrum bands?
- Conversely, is there a danger that when we return to 'normal', treasury departments with flagging economies may see spectrum auctions as a good revenue generator and push up reserve prices almost as a 'tax' to generate additional revenue? What impact would this have and how can it be avoided?

15:00 – 15:05 **Introduction and welcome**

**Dan Craft**, Managing Director, Forum Europe

Moderator: Representative, **Plum Consulting** (confirmed – speaker name tbc)

15:05 – 15:10 **Setting the scene – 5 minute introduction from moderator**

15:10 – 16:15 **Panel Discussion – 1 hour 5 minutes**

### **Panellists:**

**Luigi Ardito**, Director, Government Affairs, Qualcomm

**Jan Engelberg**, Senior Advisor, Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom)

**Dan Sjöblom**, Chair, BEREC

**Nicholas Blades**, Director - Regulation, Competition & Data Policy, Telefonica  
Representative, Verizon (tbc)

16:15 – 16:45 **'Have your say...'**

With Session Moderator + **Richard Marsden**, Managing Director, Nera Consulting

An interactive discussion and networking session - audience members will have the chance to take the floor and give their thoughts on the discussions that have taken place in the previous panel.

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## SESSION 3: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April (Starting time: 14:00 CET / 08:00 EDT)

### Keeping the delivery of 5G on track

2020 was supposed to be the year that 5G hit the mainstream. However the world is currently closed for business due to Covid-19, with this potentially set to continue for a significant amount of time. Given this unprecedented situation, this session will look at the impact that Covid-19 may have on the rollout of 5G and other next generation systems, and at the work that is being done by industry, governments and regulators around the world to keep the delivery of 5G on track both during and in the immediate aftermath of the crisis. It will also examine whether 5G can actually be part of the solution, both for this current situation, and also longer term by helping to protect against similar outbreaks in the future.

- To what extent are the challenges currently posed by Covid-19 set to delay the roll out of 5G and other next generation systems?
- What impact do operators anticipate the current situation will have both in the short term and the longer term?
- What can industry, governments and regulators do to mitigate the impact of the crisis and ensure the required investment and continued roll-out of 5G?
- What role can the telecom sector play in national economic recovery after the pandemic, and to what extent is 5G likely to be a part of this?
- Are there ways in which 5G can help to treat patients and tackle the global pandemic, and could these emerging use-cases even conceivably increase the speed of 5G development?
- Can the introduction of 5G make the world a stronger, safer place and help to protect against situations like this recurring in the future?

15:00 – 15:05 **Introduction and welcome**

**Dan Craft**, Managing Director, Forum Europe

Moderator: **Mark Colville**, Principal, Analysys Mason

14:05 – 14:10 **Setting the scene – 5 minute introduction from moderator**

14:10 – 15:15 **Panel Discussion – 1 hour 5 minutes**

#### **Panellists:**

**Philip Marnick**, Head of Spectrum, Ofcom

**Andreas Geiss**, Head of Unit for Spectrum Management, European Commission  
Representative, Huawei (confirmed – speaker name tbc)

**Maarit Palovirta**, Director of Regulatory Affairs, ETNO  
Representative, Satellite (tbc)

15:15 – 15:45 **'Have your say...'**

Led by **Mark Colville**, Principal, Analysys Mason with **Marc Eschenburg**, Partner, Aetha Consulting  
An interactive discussion and networking session - audience members will have the chance to take the floor and give their thoughts on the discussions that have taken place in the previous panel.

15:45 – 16:15 **Virtual Networking Reception**

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