Bridging Boundaries: the role of sharing in spectrum policy

Global Perspectives on Spectrum Sharing - Invitation to WInnForum International Spectrum
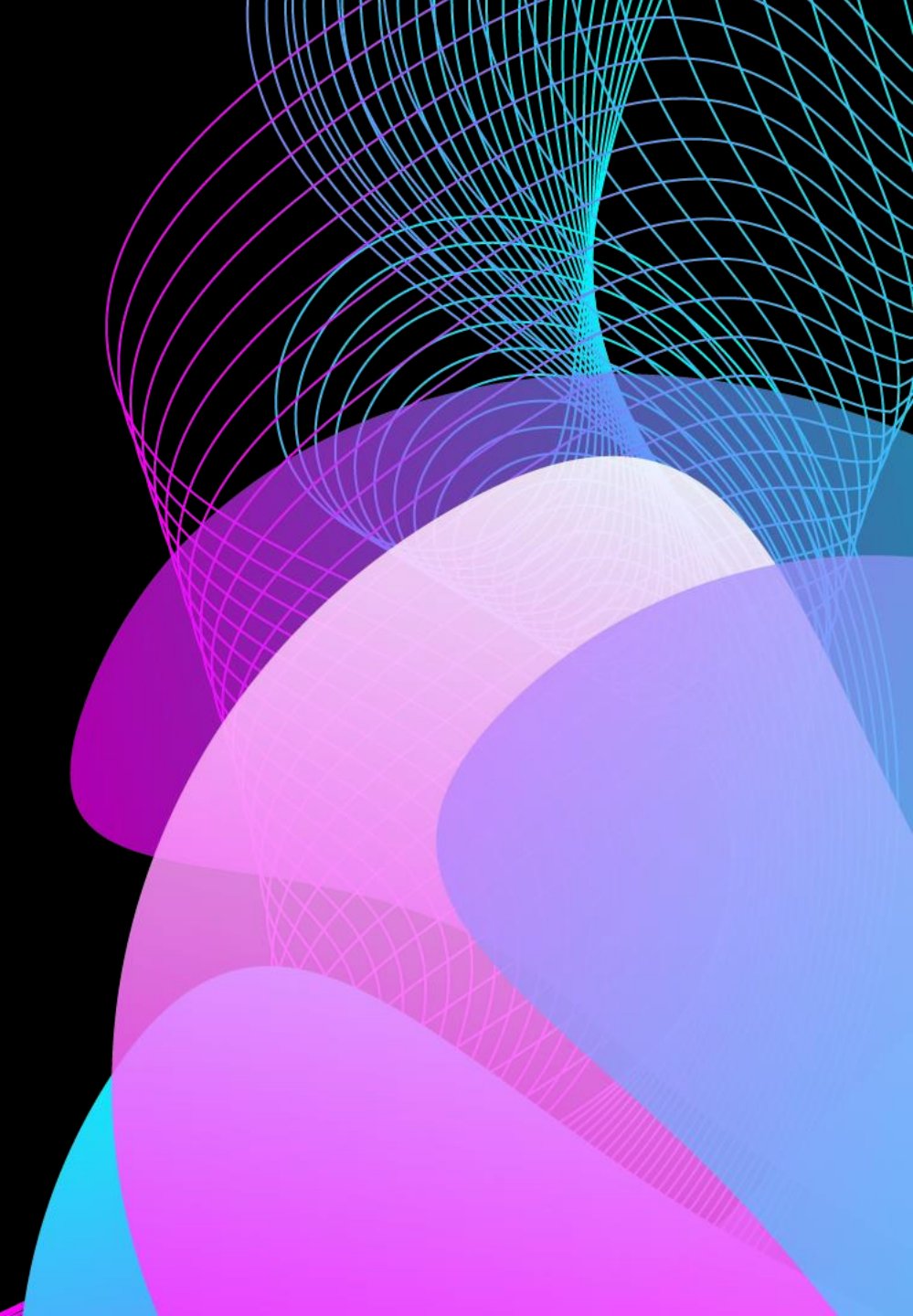
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

DSIT was established in 2023, to centralize the UK's efforts in science, technology, and innovation, with the aim of driving economic growth, addressing global challenges, and ensuring the UK's competitive edge in emerging fields.

Our objectives include:
- Accelerate innovation, investment and productivity through world-class science,
- Ensure that new and existing technologies are safely developed and deployed across the UK and
- Drive forward a modern digital government for the benefit of its citizens underpinning the Government missions.

DSIT Ministers

Peter Kyle
Secretary of State

Lord Vallance of Balham
Minister of State

Chris Bryant
Minister of State

Baroness Jones of Whitchurch
Parliamentary under SoS

Feryal Clark
Parliamentary under SoS

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DSIT is the lead UK government department for spectrum policy

Department for Science, Innovation & Technology

DSIT

Digital Infrastructure

WISC

Spectrum team

Keeping the legal framework for spectrum management under review

Setting strategic direction for Ofcom to consider in its spectrum management functions, including in international spectrum negotiations

Leading cross-government policy on public sector spectrum use

Spectrum sharing plays a key role to our strategy

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In our **Wireless Infrastructure Strategy** we set out that, as demand continues to grow, we must ensure continuous evolution of our spectrum access mechanisms and improvements in sharing.
We recognized that the introduction of Ofcom's spectrum sharing framework in 2019 was a welcome and groundbreaking step in catalysing the UK's sharing landscape.

In out **Spectrum Statement** we noted that Spectrum management should itself take advantage of innovation, as well as supporting innovation in the services which use spectrum. We also set clear ambitions to further enhance spectrum sharing arrangements in the UK, for both civil and public sector spectrum use

Sharing And Innovation Examples

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Ofcom's Shared Access Framework marked the UK out as a world leader in making such 5G spectrum available for industrial and other applications

We asked Ofcom to explore options to increase access to spectrum (including a wider range of users) and accelerate the automation of Shared Access Licence (SAL) band licensing – which is underway

Sharing And Innovation Examples

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In the 2023 Autumn Statement, the Government committed £5 million to support **Spectrum Sandboxes**, designed to explore how technologies can improve spectrum sharing:

- Enhance spectrum sharing under the Shared Access and Local Access Frameworks, opening up access for a broader range of users, industries, and sectors.
- Enable a greater level of new services and applications from both mobile and licence-exempt use in the upper 6 GHz band

Work is set to conclude by March 2025
Findings from these projects could inform future regulatory and policy developments to further improve spectrum access in the UK.

Next steps

- Supporting innovation and ways to increase an efficient use of resources like spectrum is an ongoing priority for the Government

- Spectrum should be an enabler to innovation, not a barrier

- We are actively promoting policies and initiatives focused on spectrum innovation

- Our commitment to collaboration with industry, Ofcom, and other Government departments will continue as we work towards achieving the Government's missions

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