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note that government has identified the release of spectrum as one of the seven key areas of focus to stimulate investments and revive the economy in the short to medium term.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. South Africa experiences continued growth in demand for more spectrum as a result of significant growth in traffic. The deficiency of assigned Spectrum for IMT brings constraints and challenges in the provision of broadband services. To address South Africa's bandwidth deficiency, the currently assigned bandwidth of 566 MHz IMT spectrum needs to be increased to 958 MHz in the immediate future in accordance with the Authority's five (5) year strategy.
- 2.2. There is a need to assign a minimum of 1011 MHz and a maximum of 1036 MHz for use by IMT (incl. GSM) by 2020 to achieve SA Connect targets. It is the Authority's position that the licensing of IMT700, IMT800, IMT2300, IMT2600 and IMT3500 will contribute a significant bandwidth towards achieving the SA Connect targets.
- 2.3. The IMT700, IMT800, IMT2300, IMT2600 and IMT3500 bands have been identified worldwide for IMT services. These bands complement each other in the sense that they fulfil the requirements for capacity and coverage which make them suitable for rural and urban areas and for bridging the digital divide.
- 2.4. It is for these reasons that the Authority has decided on the simultaneous licensing of the IMT700, IMT800, IMT2300, IMT2600 and IMT3500 bands, in order to enhance competition and to increase broadband coverage, and in so doing bridge the digital divide and the disparities between urban and rural access to broadband networks.
- 2.5. The Authority has considered the Policy on High Demand spectrum and Policy Direction of the Licensing of Wireless Open Access Network in accordance with section 3 (4) of the ECA and intends to embark on the licensing process as outlined in Annexure A. The aforementioned bands have been specifically (and or by implication) identified for prioritization by the Authority for purposes of assignment in accordance with Policy on High Demand spectrum and Policy Direction of the Licensing of Wireless Open Access Network and the Authority's Strategic Plan 2015 - 2019.
- 2.6. It is important to adopt global harmonisation channel arrangements and alignment with other regional agreements on the appropriate channel plans for the IMT700, IMT800, IMT2300, IMT2600 and