

Wi-Fi 6E Insights



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Editorial

by Alex Roytblat, Vice President of Worldwide Regulatory Affairs at Wi-Fi Alliance®

Welcome to the first edition of the Wi-Fi 6E Insights newsletter. Wi-Fi 6E refers to Wi-Fi 6 devices operating in the 5925-7125 MHz (“6 GHz”) frequency band. In this newsletter, Wi-Fi Alliance will share updates on regulatory developments in the growing Wi-Fi 6E ecosystem with particular emphasis on the EMEA region. We will bring you interviews with key policymakers focused on expanding the socioeconomic benefits of Wi-Fi® connectivity and analyze key decisions around 6 GHz.

Recognizing the important benefits delivered by Wi-Fi 6E, regulators around the world are opening the 6 GHz unlicensed band for Wi-Fi, paving the way for additional capacity, greater speed, and reduced latency for critical activities, such as telecommuting, telepresence, and distance learning. A [new animation](#) produced by Wi-Fi Alliance highlights the features and capabilities of Wi-Fi 6E.

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News in Brief EMEA

The Arab States

Saudi Arabia has announced it will make the entire 6 GHz band available on a license-exempt basis in 2021, while Jordan and Qatar are taking steps in the same direction and Egypt and Oman have launched public consultations on the lower part of the band.

In **Saudi Arabia**, the regulator CITC is to release the entire 6 GHz band on a license-exempt basis in 2021. In a [new spectrum roadmap](#), the CITC said it is making the 5925-7125 MHz band license-exempt because of the “importance of WLAN use

in the Kingdom and substantial amount of Wi-Fi traffic, which was exemplified during the COVID-19 lockdowns, and the emergence of a promising device ecosystem that can be taken advantage of starting from 2021 to enable a wide range of innovative digital services”. It added that a substantial amount of licensed TDD mid-band spectrum is already being made available for IMT and 5G.

The **Qatar** Communications Regulatory Authority is consulting on plans to make the full 6 GHz band

available for Wi-Fi 6E. The authority believes the spectrum could be used to complement the services provided by mobile operators during the 2022 FIFA World Cup. The [consultation](#) was available for public comment until April 8.

Jordan intends to make the full 6 GHz band available for Wi-Fi technology (low power indoor devices and very low power devices) as soon as possible to meet the increasing demand for high bandwidth. In a submission to the ASMG plenary, Jordan's Telecommunications Regulatory Commission said it will release the technical conditions for such uses soon. The decision follows input into a questionnaire, published by the Commission in December 2020, which showed that overall opinion was in favor of making the entire 6 GHz band available for Wi-Fi technology.

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of **Oman** is running a [consultation](#) on making the lower part of the 6 GHz band (5925-6425 MHz) available for Wi-Fi 6E devices on a license-exempt basis, enabling indoor use only. The Authority says the measure "will help to overcome the problems of internet traffic congestion". The consultation also explains the current regulations and some advantages of Wi-Fi 6E.

In **Egypt**, the NTRA is reviewing how to employ the 6 GHz band to meet future demand, and enable new, innovative applications. Through a public consultation, the NTRA is exploring the possibility of allowing RLAN operation in the 5925-6425 MHz band indoors. The deadline for responses is 22 April 2021. As well as being a member of the ASMG, Egypt is a member of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and will, therefore, review the spectrum recommendations of the ATU's various Task Groups.

Africa

The African Telecommunications Union (ATU) Emerging Technologies Task Group has finalized its recommendation on license-exempt access to the lower part of the 6 GHz band (5925-6425 MHz).

The recommendation, sent to all ATU countries for written inputs, includes an annex containing the technical and regulatory conditions for operating unlicensed technologies in the lower 6 GHz band, similar to those included in the [draft EC Decision](#). Assuming the African administrations validate the recommendations, then the position of Africa will be

similar to that about to be adopted by the EU. Some African countries are likely to move quickly to open up the lower 6 GHz to enable Wi-Fi 6E to bring enhanced connectivity to citizens and businesses.

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Europe

The European Commission is on the cusp of adopting a decision enabling license-exempt wireless technologies to access the lower 6 GHz band.

Following CEPT's publication of regulations to allow for license-exempt access to the lower 6 GHz band, the European Commission is set to publish the related [Decision](#) in May.

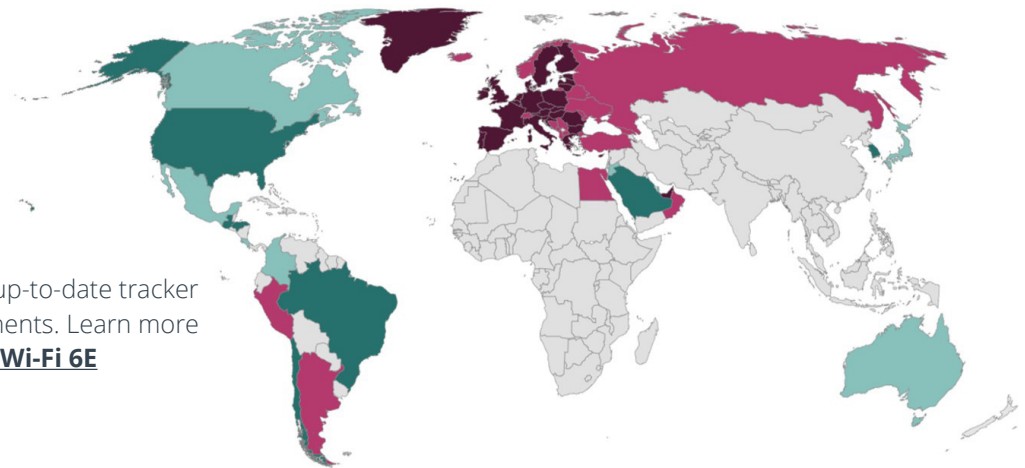
By 1 December 2021, EU Member States will be required to make the 5945-6425 MHz frequency band available on a non-exclusive, non-interference and non-protected basis for the implementation of wireless access services/radio local area access

networks (WAS/RLANs). Some Member States are likely to move before December. The German Federal Network Agency, Bundesnetzagentur, for example, has said it plans to allocate the 6 GHz band for license-exempt use during the second quarter of 2021.

If EU countries want to introduce new applications in the lower part of the 6 GHz band or in adjacent bands after this Decision has taken effect, the technical and operational conditions of these new applications are not allowed to unduly restrict the continued use of license-exempt technologies in this band.

Countries Enabling Wi-Fi 6E

- Adopted 5925-6425 MHz
- Adopted 5925-7125 MHz
- Considering 5925-6425 MHz
- Considering 5925-7125 MHz



Wi-Fi Alliance maintains an up-to-date tracker on Wi-Fi 6E global developments. Learn more about [countries enabling Wi-Fi 6E](#)

Around the Globe

The Australian Communications and Media Authority is consulting on a proposal to allow RLAN equipment, such as Wi-Fi devices, to operate in the lower 6 GHz band in Australia. It is also reviewing the current arrangements for RLAN devices in part of the nearby 5 GHz band, to potentially reflect recent changes to international regulations.

Many regulators across the Americas are currently running consultations on the use of the 6 GHz band for Wi-Fi and other license-exempt technologies. In ITU Region 2, Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa

Rica, Mexico, and Peru are among the countries that have consulted or are in the process of consulting on the use of the band for Wi-Fi, with all of them (except Peru) considering assigning the whole band for unlicensed access, according to an article by PolicyTracker.

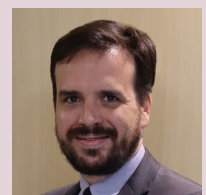
They are following in the footsteps of the U.S., Brazil, Chile and Honduras, which have all given the green light for Wi-Fi 6 to operate in the full 6 GHz band (5925-7125 MHz).

In Discussion with...

**Commissioner Carlos Baigorri,
Anatel, Brazil**



In February, the Brazilian regulator Anatel (Agencia Nacional de Telecomunicacoes) cleared a proposal that will see the 6 GHz (5925-7125MHz) frequency band opened for use by license-exempt wireless technologies.



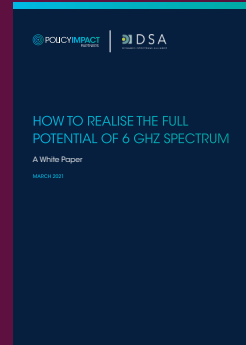
In an exclusive interview, Commissioner Carlos Baigorri explains the thinking behind this decision.

[Read more](#)

Research and Analysis



[Global Economic Value of Wi-Fi 2021-2025](#)



[6 GHz EMEA Paper](#)

Product News

Product Availability

In January, Wi-Fi Alliance announced the expansion of its [Wi-Fi CERTIFIED 6™ certification program](#) to include Wi-Fi 6E products operating in 6 GHz. More than 338 million Wi-Fi 6E devices will enter the market this year, [according to IDC Research](#).

Wi-Fi 6E devices bring the immense benefits of 6 GHz spectrum into users' hands as the band is made available around the world. Access points from vendors such as ASUS, Linksys, NETGEAR, and

TP-Link, are now available, along with chipsets from Broadcom, Infineon, Intel, MaxLinear, MediaTek, ON Semiconductor, and Qualcomm. Additionally, Samsung's Galaxy S21 and new Neo QLED 8K TV support Wi-Fi 6E.

Learn more about the latest Wi-Fi 6E devices unleashing the benefits of 6 GHz for consumer and businesses around the world in our [product finder](#) and new blog:

[Wi-Fi 6E devices driving technology innovation](#).



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