

# Wi-Fi 6E Insights



**In this issue** • Updates on 6 GHz regulatory activity across Africa, Middle East, and Europe • Global developments enabling Wi-Fi 6E • Exclusive interview with the Head of the Arab Spectrum Management Group • Product news

## Editorial

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

Welcome to the latest edition of the Wi-Fi 6E Insights newsletter. This newsletter covers regulatory developments relating to Wi-Fi 6E with a particular emphasis on the EMEA region. It features interviews with key policymakers focused on expanding the socioeconomic benefits of Wi-Fi® and analyzes important decisions around 6 GHz availability.

Since the first edition in April, Wi-Fi 6E regulation has taken several major steps forward. The European Commission published an implementing Decision mandating that EU Member States make the lower 6 GHz band (5945-6425 MHz) available for license-exempt radio

local area network (RLAN) technologies, such as Wi-Fi 6E.

Africa is moving in the same direction following the African Telecommunications Union's validation of its Emerging Technologies working group's recommendation to open the lower 6 GHz band (5925-6425 MHz) to license-exempt technologies. African countries can now press ahead with adopting Wi-Fi 6E, taking advantage of the economies of scale that will be created by the rollout in Europe and other parts of the world.

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## News in Brief EMEA

### Africa and the Arab States

The African Telecommunications Union (ATU) has validated the ATU working group decision on making the lower 6 GHz band available on a license-exempt basis. African governments can now move forward and open the 5925-6425 MHz band up to Wi-Fi 6E.

**Morocco** is the first country in Africa to have [authorized](#) Wi-Fi 6E. In May, the Moroccan National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (ANRT)

published a decision amending and supplementing the technical conditions for the use of low power and short-range radios in the lower 6 GHz band. The ANRT said Wi-Fi 6E allows high speed browsing and reduced latency for telecommuting, videoconferencing, e-learning, virtual reality, augmented reality, and other activities.

The Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC) of the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** has been presented with the Wi-Fi Innovation award by the Dynamic Spectrum Alliance (DSA) in recognition of its significant contribution towards developing dynamic spectrum access technologies in support of Wi-Fi use cases. The regulator was the first country in the Europe, Middle East, and Africa region to enable license-exempt access to the entire 6 GHz band, which is crucial for the continued development of Wi-Fi.

Additionally, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been upgraded to the status of fifth-generation (5G) regulator by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). The upgrade signals that the ITU now regards Saudi Arabia, as a world-class digital nation.

## Europe

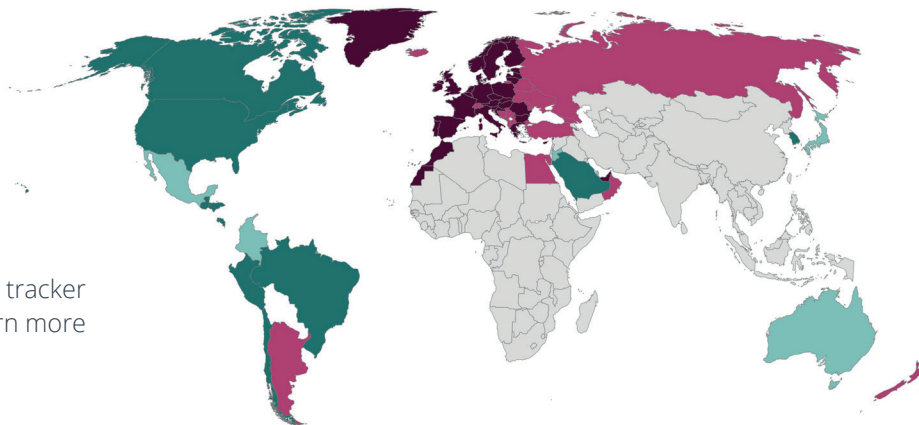
The **European Commission** has published an implementing Decision on the harmonized use of the 5945-6425 MHz frequency band by wireless access systems, including radio local area networks (WAS/RLANs). The Decision brings wider channels required for many applications, including videoconferencing, downloading media, telemedicine, online learning and gaming, augmented reality, and virtual reality that need the bandwidth to achieve gigabit speeds. It also noted the EU internal market can now benefit from a spectrum resource potentially available worldwide, thus offering economies of scale and spectrum harmonization.

Some European governments have signaled they support the Wi-Fi ecosystem's calls for studies exploring whether license-exempt technologies can be used across the entire 6 GHz band. According to Policy Tracker, Pavel Sístek, head of the policy and strategy unit at the Czech Telecommunication Office, told the Dynamic Spectrum Alliance's Global Summit

that more countries are exploring RLANs across the whole band and that he would like to see wider European harmonization. The Wi-Fi ecosystem is calling for the CEPT to raise a work item to study the technical conditions in the Upper 6 GHz band for coexistence between WAS/RLAN (including Wi-Fi) and the incumbent fixed and fixed satellite services.

**The UK** regulator Ofcom is considering how to enable the use of Wi-Fi 6E in the upper 6 GHz band as this would allow "people to use the chipsets and devices that are currently emerging to enable this band, the upper 6 GHz band, to be used for that purpose," Philip Marnick, spectrum group director of Ofcom told the European Spectrum Management Conference. "One of our duties is always looking at the efficient use of spectrum. We need to think about how to put all spectrum into use, to make it work, so we can support existing services, specialist services, and new sharing applications.

# Countries Enabling Wi-Fi 6E



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 **Canadian** government announced it will open the 6 GHz band to Wi-Fi to “support greater choice and affordability of wireless broadband” for consumers. The decision opens up an additional 1200 MHz of spectrum, tripling the spectrum available for Wi-Fi, the government said. “More spectrum available for Wi-Fi means Canadians will benefit from increased speed and connectivity for working from home, participating in online education and accessing health care services remotely,” it added. “This decision also allows for more affordable deployment of broadband technology in rural areas and increased access to the spectrum for Canadian businesses and innovators looking to use it.”

In **Mexico**, the Federal Telecommunications Institute is running a public [consultation](#) on a draft agreement to classify the entire 6 GHz band “as free spectrum” and the related technical operating conditions of the band. The deadline for responses has been extended to August 5th. Among the objectives are the encouragement of “technological innovation” by giving access to “the radio spectrum for new equipment or technologies related to the operation of WAS/RLAN systems in the frequency band 5925-7125 MHz, without the need for a concession for these purposes” and the promotion of competition in the telecommunications market.

**Peru’s** Transport and Communications Ministry (MTC) has [allocated](#) the entire 6 GHz band for use by license-exempt technologies, such as Wi-Fi. The

decision could generate more than \$22 billion for the Peruvian economy over the next 10 years, according to a study by the DSA and Telecom Advisory Services. Wi-Fi will be allowed to operate in the entire 5925-7125 MHz range at low power, but operations will be restricted to indoor. The MTC is likely to consider very low power and standard power at a later stage.

In **New Zealand**, the Radio Spectrum Management (RSM) agency is [considering](#) the use of the 6 GHz band to accommodate growing wireless broadband traffic. The RSM is proposing to make the lower 6 GHz band (5925-6425 MHz) available for use by Wi-Fi and other wireless local area networks (WLANs). To enable these services to coexist with the incumbent fixed, fixed satellite, and ultra-wide band systems, the RSM has proposed two power limits for WLAN devices operating indoors and outdoors respectively.

In **Australia**, the Australian Communications and Media Authority recently [consulted](#) on the possibility of allowing RLAN equipment to operate in the 6 GHz band. In the consultation document, the authority says: “There is sufficient momentum internationally to propose that the lower 500 MHz (5925-6425 MHz) of the 6 GHz band be made available for RLAN use. It is not proposed that access be limited to RLANs – other devices that meet these technical conditions, such as ‘unlicensed’ variants of 4G and 5G technologies, would also be enabled.”

## In Discussion with...

### The Arab Spectrum Management Group (ASMG)



The United Arab Emirates' Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) has designated 500 MHz of spectrum in the 6 GHz band (5925-6425 MHz) to Wi-Fi. Eng. Tariq Al Awadhi, executive director for spectrum management at

TDRA and head of the Arab Spectrum Management Group (ASMG), and Eng. Sultan Albalooshi, manager of spectrum policy at the TDRA, discuss how Wi-Fi is set to evolve in the Arab States.

[Read more](#)

## Research and Analysis

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



## Product News

UL [has begun](#) to offer Wi-Fi 6E testing capabilities to meet the regulatory requirements for U.S. and Europe at multiple European sites. UL's laboratories in Basingstoke, England, and Stuttgart, Germany, are designed to meet the immediate demand for Wi-Fi 6E wireless testing and certification services. UL says the facilities offer "state-of-the-art technology and a comprehensive service solution, including

certifications to meet market regulatory requirements around the world."

Learn more about the latest Wi-Fi 6E devices unleashing the benefits of 6 GHz for consumers and businesses around the world in our [product finder](#) and new blog: [Wi-Fi 6E devices driving technology innovation \(July update\)](#).



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