



ECC Decision (22)04

ECC Decision on the withdrawal of ECC Decision (15)03 on the harmonised use of broadband Direct Air-to-Ground Communications (DA2GC) systems in the frequency band 5855-5875 MHz

approved 18 November 2022

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1 INTRODUCTION

In 2022, the ECC Decision (15)03 on the harmonised use of broadband Direct Air-to-Ground Communications (DA2GC) systems in the frequency band 5855-5875 MHz was reviewed as part of the regular review of ECC Decisions.

Direct-Air-to-Ground Communications (DA2GC) systems were intended to provide a bi-directional radio link between an Aircraft Station (AS) and a Ground Station (GS). The aircraft station is mounted on-board aircraft and is under the control of a network of ground stations which provide control and telecommunication functionalities for DA2GC.

Since the introduction of ECC Decision (15)03, there has been very limited national implementation. There is no reported or planned use of DA2GC within CEPT. A high level of national implementation and use would have been necessary for DA2GC systems to have provided the connectivity to air passengers as they travelled across Europe.

It was concluded that ECC Decision (15)03 was suitable for withdrawal and no longer needed.

2 BACKGROUND

During the 2022 review, it was noted that there are currently no uses or known plans for DA2GC in the 5855-5875 MHz frequency range. ETSI have expressed no objection against the withdrawal of ECC Decision (15)03, as stated in FM(22)085.

In 2018, by means of ECC Decision (18)01, ECC Decision (15)02 on 'The harmonised use of broadband Direct Air-to-Ground Communications (DA2GC) systems in the frequency band 1900-1920 MHz' was withdrawn.

Despite the fact that ETSI has developed harmonised standards (EN 303 339) which can be used for broadband DA2GC systems, no demand has been expressed within the 2015-2022 timeframe for taking up the opportunity for a European broadband DA2GC system in the band 5855-5875 MHz.

In addition, other options are in place for the provision of broadband services on-board aircraft:

- Other DA2GC solutions are currently implemented in North America using spectrum which is shared with other use, e.g. in the 2.4 GHz frequency band.
- Mobile-Satellite Service (MSS) systems (1980-2010 MHz / 2170-2200 MHz) have been developed and such systems may include a Complementary Ground Component (CGC) under ECC Decision (06)09 and ECC Decision (06)10, and thus provide services similar to DA2GC.

In summary, it is believed that the withdrawal of ECC Decision (15)03 does not have any negative consequences and may also stimulate proposals for the band 5855-5875 MHz with regard to the use by other alternative radio applications in the future.

3 REQUIREMENT FOR AN ECC DECISION

The ECC Rules of Procedure foresee that the withdrawal of a Decision is subject to the same procedure as the development and adoption of a new Decision. This Decision therefore is developed to withdraw the following ECC Decision:

- ECC Decision (15)03 of 3 July 2015 on the harmonised use of broadband Direct Air-to-Ground Communications (DA2GC) systems in the frequency band 5855-5875 MHz.

ECC DECISION OF 18 NOVEMBER 2022 ON WITHDRAWAL OF ECC DECISION (15)03 OF 3 JULY 2015 ON THE HARMONISED USE OF BROADBAND DIRECT AIR-TO-GROUND COMMUNICATIONS (DA2GC) SYSTEMS IN THE FREQUENCY BAND 5855-5875 MHZ (ECC DECISION (22)04)

“The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

considering

- a) Mobile-Satellite Service (MSS) systems (1980-2010 MHz / 2170-2200 MHz) have been developed and such systems may include a Complementary Ground Component (CGC) under ECC Decision (06)09 and ECC Decision (06)10;
- b) that the frequency band 5850-5925 MHz is allocated to the fixed, fixed-satellite (Earth to space) and the mobile service, all on a primary basis in the European Common Allocation Table (ERC Report 25) and in the ITU Radio Regulations;
- c) that no demand has been expressed within the 2015-2022 timeframe for taking up the opportunity for a European Broadband DA2GC system in the band 5855-5875 MHz band;

DECIDES

1. to withdraw the ECC Decision (15)03 of 3 July 2015 on the harmonised use of broadband Direct Air-to-Ground Communications (DA2GC) systems in the frequency band 5855-5875 MHz;
2. that this ECC Decision enters into force on 18 November 2022.”