

## GRANT OF RIGHTS OF USE OF RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A TERRESTRIAL SYSTEM CAPABLE OF PROVIDING MOBILE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Licence Reference: MCA/L/20-4089

*This Licence is being granted by the Malta Communications Authority in exercise of its powers under the Electronic Communications (Regulation) Act (Cap. 399 of the Laws of Malta)*

Commencement Date of the Original Licence:	27 August 2011
Licence Reference of the Original Licence	MCA/L/11-0487
Date of Issue of the Amended Licence (first amendment)	27 September 2018
Licence Reference of the Amended Licence (first amendment)	MCA/L/18-3343
Date of Issue of the Amended Licence (second amendment)	17 November 2020
Licence Reference of the Amended Licence (second amendment)	MCA/L/20-4089
Expiry Date:	26 August 2026
Name of Licensee:	Epic Communications Limited
Registered Address:	SkyParks Business Centre Malta International Airport Luqa Malta
Company Registration Number:	C 10865

### Article 1. Definitions

1.1 Any reference in this Licence to "the Act" is a reference to the Electronic Communications (Regulation) Act (Cap. 399 of the Laws of Malta), and subject to Article 1.2 of this Licence, the provisions of the said Law shall apply to this Licence.

1.2 In this Licence, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Authority" means the Malta Communications Authority;

"the Commencement Date" means **27 August 2011**, being the date when the original licence was issued;

"coverage territory" means all the islands of the Maltese Archipelago, excluding the territorial waters and airspace thereof, within which access by users to the services being provided over the relevant network is possible;

"the Expiry Date" means **26 August 2026**;



"the Licensee" means Epic Communications Limited, a company registered in Malta with number C 10865;

"Proposal" means the proposal based on the outcome of the brokered meetings put forward by the Authority on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011, which was accepted by the previous Licensee of the Original Licence (Vodafone Malta Limited) on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and which contains the final terms and conditions related to the issuance of this Licence;

"the Radio Frequency Spectrum" means the radio frequency spectrum defined in Annex I to this Licence; and

"terrestrial mobile system" means a terrestrial system compliant with the technical parameters laid down in Annex I to this Licence, which is capable of providing mobile electronic communications services.

## **Article 2. Grant of Licence**

- 2.1. By virtue of this Licence, the Authority hereby assigns to the Licensee the right of use of the Radio Frequency Spectrum, for the purpose of establishing and operating a terrestrial mobile system/s capable of providing electronic communication services according to the conditions listed hereunder.
- 2.2. This Licence shall replace the Amended Licence with reference no. MCA/L/18-3343 which was previously granted to Vodafone Malta Limited.

## **Article 3. Licence Duration**

- 3.1 This Licence shall commence on the Commencement Date and shall remain in force until the Expiry Date, unless otherwise lawfully terminated in accordance with the Act and/or this Licence.
- 3.2 This Licence shall cease to have effect immediately on the Expiry Date.
- 3.3 Irrespective of whether the Licensee is still using the Radio Frequency Spectrum, the right of use of which is granted to it by virtue of this Licence, the Authority shall, at any time prior to the expiry of this Licence, have the right to commence any procedures necessary for the re-assignment of the rights of use of the Radio Frequency Spectrum upon the expiry of this Licence.

## **Article 4. Use of Radio Frequency Spectrum**

- 4.1 The Radio Frequency Spectrum shall be used by the Licensee only to establish and operate a terrestrial mobile system, and subject to the terms, conditions and limitations stated in this Licence, unless otherwise previously authorised in writing by the Authority.
- 4.2 The Licensee shall at all times ensure that the Radio Frequency Spectrum is used efficiently and in accordance with the Authority's directions.

- 4.3 The Radio Frequency Spectrum shall only be used by the Licensee. The right of use of the Radio Frequency Spectrum may not be assigned or transferred to third parties, unless otherwise previously authorised in writing by the Authority:

Provided that a change in any way whatsoever in the ownership of shares with voting rights of the Licensee shall be considered to constitute an assignment or transfer of the Radio Frequency Spectrum.

- 4.4 The Licensee shall immediately in writing inform the Authority of any changes effected to its corporate structure, including, but not limited to any changes in shareholding of the ownership, or any change that results in a change of effective control of the undertaking, any change to its company name and to its registered address.
- 4.5 Upon amalgamation either by acquisition, or by the formation of a new company of two or more undertakings with different company registration numbers allocated by the competent authority responsible for the registration of commercial partnerships under the Companies Act (Cap. 386 of the Laws of Malta), the Licensee is obliged to in writing inform the Authority immediately.

#### **Article 5. Fee for Right of Use of Radio Frequency Spectrum**

- 5.1 The Licensee shall immediately upon issue of this Licence and thereafter quarterly, in advance, for the duration of this Licence, pay to the Authority the fees stipulated in the relevant legislation:

Provided that the Licensee shall effect such payments punctually and that any late payments shall be subject to the maximum interest rate applicable at law:

Provided further that any non-payment or late payment of dues under this Article shall also constitute a breach of this Licence and entitle the Authority to terminate the same Licence.

- 5.2 All payments effected by the Licensee in accordance with Article 5.1 of this Licence are not refundable by the Authority and, or the Government of Malta.

#### **Article 6. Non-Interference**

- 6.1 The Licensee shall comply with any Decisions and, or Directives however so described, issued by the Authority in relation to harmful interference.
- 6.2 The Licensee shall ensure that the terrestrial mobile system at all times complies with the technical and performance standards generally accepted by the industry, or as may be prescribed by the Authority, or accepted by the Authority as being adequate to ensure that such system does not cause harmful interference with, seriously reduce the quality of, or repeatedly disrupt the lawful use or operation, of any other electronic communications networks and, or services:

Provided that the Licensee shall take all the necessary precautions to ensure coexistence with current and future systems for aviation communication, operating in frequency bands adjacent to the Radio Frequency Spectrum. In this regard the Licensee may be required to implement mitigation measures considered necessary by the Authority such as those recommended by European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) in its Reports 41 and 42.

- 6.3 The Licensee shall ensure that its terrestrial mobile system does not cause harmful interference with, seriously reduce the quality of, or disrupt the lawful use or operation of, any other electronic communications networks and, or services.
- 6.4 Neither the Authority, nor the Government of Malta, shall be held responsible in any manner whatsoever by the Licensee for any harmful interference that may hinder the use or operation of its terrestrial mobile system.

#### **Article 7. Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields**

- 7.1 The Licensee shall comply with any radiation emission standards adopted and published by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and any other appropriate standards as may be specified by national and, or international legislation, by the Authority or by any other national competent authority.
- 7.2 The Licensee shall comply with any Decisions however so described, issued by the Authority or any other national competent authority, in relation to electromagnetic radiation, and shall ensure that its terrestrial mobile system at all times complies with the technical and performance standards generally accepted by the industry, or as may be prescribed by the Authority in line with national and, or international legislation, or accepted by the Authority or any other national competent authority, as being adequate to ensure the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields.
- 7.3 The Licensee shall ensure that its terrestrial mobile system is not installed or operated at a location and in a manner such as to be the cause of the aggregate non-ionising radiation emissions exceeding the limits published by the ICNIRP or any other appropriate standards as may be specified by national and, or international legislation, by the Authority or by any other national competent authority.

#### **Article 8. Rollout and Coverage Requirements**

- 8.1 The Licensee shall ensure that access to its terrestrial mobile system is made available to users in the Coverage Territory in accordance with the coverage requirements and timeframes set out in Annex II of this Licence and the conditions listed in this Licence such that users can adequately access its terrestrial mobile system:

Provided that the Licensee's obligations under this article shall not apply if, subsequent to a request in writing by the Licensee, the Authority agrees in writing that it is not practicable for the Licensee to carry out its obligations under this article.

#### **Article 9. Information**

- 9.1. The Licensee shall facilitate and ensure access to any information that the Authority may, in accordance with its functions at law, request.
- 9.2. The Licensee shall promptly provide the Authority, in such a manner and at such times as the Authority may reasonably request, any information related to the use of the Radio Frequency Spectrum assigned to the Licensee, the terrestrial mobile system operated by the Licensee or any other information that the Authority considers necessary to ensure compliance with this Licence and, or with the provisions of any law, or for statistical purposes.

#### **Article 10. Further Compliance**

- 10.1. The Licensee shall comply with:
- a) all applicable national and international legislation;
  - b) any Decisions and, or Directives however so described, of the Authority; and
  - c) all the articles of this Licence.
- 10.2. Nothing in this Licence shall absolve the Licensee from any legal requirement to obtain any other permissions, authorisations or licences, however so described, as may be necessary for the provision of the service and for the exercise of its rights and the discharge of its obligations under this Licence:

Provided that failure on the part of the Licensee to comply with any other requirements shall not exempt the Licensee from any failure to discharge its obligations under this Licence:

Provided further that the Licensee shall be solely responsible for all costs, expenses and other commitments, however so described, whether financial or otherwise, in respect of the Licence and the provision of the service, and the Authority shall bear no responsibility for any such costs, expenses or commitments.

#### **Article 11. Termination**

- 11.1. Without prejudice to any other measures, including the imposition of any sanctions however so described, that may be taken at law for the non-observance of the conditions of this Licence, this Licence may be withdrawn at any time by the Authority if any of the conditions laid down at law or in any part of this Licence are not observed.



- 11.2. The Authority shall be entitled to automatically terminate this Licence giving no less than two (2) weeks prior written notice, and request the Licensee to return the Licence to the Authority, in any of the following instances:
- a. upon the expiration of the term of the Licence;
  - b. upon the Licence being handed back in accordance with Article 12 of this Licence;
  - c. upon renunciation by the Licensee;
  - d. upon revocation of this Licence in accordance with the articles of this Licence and, or of law;
  - e. upon insolvency, liquidation or bankruptcy of the Licensee; or
  - f. upon the winding up or dissolution of the Licensee.
- 11.3. Termination of this license in terms of Article 11.2, shall take place with immediate effect from the date specified in the written notification and the Licensee shall have no claim against the Authority in respect of such termination.
- 11.4. In addition to the above, if the Authority is of the view that the spectrum, the rights of use of which is awarded by virtue of this Licence, is not being utilised efficiently, it will communicate its view in writing to the Licensee. Within such period as the Authority may consider appropriate in the circumstances, which period shall in no case exceed more than three months, the Licensee shall rectify the situation, failing which the Authority will be entitled to terminate without further warning the rights of use being granted herein.
- 11.5. The termination of this Licence on any of the grounds mentioned in paragraphs (c) to (f) of Article 11.2 and Article 11.4 of this Licence will be without prejudice to the obligation of the Licensee to pay with immediate effect upon termination, the fee for the right of use of Radio Frequency Spectrum laid down in Article 5.1 of this Licence that would have been paid by the Licensee for the subsequent three (3) years of this Licence and fulfil any obligation arising prior to the said termination.
- 11.6. The termination of this Licence on any of the grounds mentioned in paragraphs (b) to (f) of Article 11.2 and Article 11.4 above will be without prejudice to any measures that may be taken by the Authority with respect to the Licensee's failure to comply with its rollout and coverage obligations as mentioned in Article 8 of this Licence.
- 11.7. The termination of this Licence in relation to the Rights of Use of Spectrum will entitle the Authority to automatically re-assign the spectrum in question to third parties.

## **Article 12. Hand back**

- 12.1. Without prejudice to Article 11.6 of this Licence, in the event that the Authority so authorises, on the grounds that the demand for radio frequencies in the 1800 MHz band never exceeded supply in this band, the Licensee may choose to hand back to the Authority any number of the radio frequencies in the 1800 MHz band listed in Annex I.

- 12.2. The right of the Licensee to hand back the Licence in accordance with Article 12.1 of this Licence will be without prejudice to its obligation to effect any payments due to the Authority at the time of the hand back in accordance with Article 5.1:

Provided that any payments that would have already been duly effected by the Licensee to the Authority in accordance with Article 5.1 will not be reimbursed by the Authority or the Government of Malta upon hand back:

Provided further that the balance due to the Authority for the payment of the fee between the date of the hand back and Expiry Date, shall no longer be due to the Authority.

### **Article 13. Rights and Remedies of the Authority**

- 13.1. In addition to its power to terminate this Licence in accordance with Article 11 above, the Authority shall, in accordance with its powers at law, have the power to impose administrative fines on the Licensee for any non-compliance with the conditions of this Licence and, or call upon any bank guarantees issued by the Licensee in favour of the Authority where the conditions for such an action occur.

- 13.2. The Authority may add to, or amend or revoke any of the terms and conditions of this Licence, including the Radio Frequency Spectrum the right of use of which is being granted by this Licence, when such additions or amendments are necessary as a result of any international obligations entered into by the Authority or by the Government of Malta, or by the need to ensure compliance with the Act or any other law, or by the need to ensure efficient frequency planning:

Provided that the Authority shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever for any damages suffered or expenses incurred by the Licensee as a result of any amendment of the terms or conditions of this Licence:

Provided further that the Authority should inform the Licensee in advance and take into account its views if relevant impact is foreseeable on the Licensee's terrestrial mobile system and if circumstances so permit, grant a reasonable timeframe for the implementation of the relevant additions and, or amendments to the conditions.

- 13.3. If any article of this Licence is declared to be unenforceable by any court of law or tribunal however so described, such declaration shall have no effect on the enforceability of the remaining articles of this Licence, all of which will remain in force until the termination of this Licence.

- 13.4. The Authority and any persons duly authorised by the Authority to act on its behalf, shall have the right to carry out inspections and measurements on any site being operated by the Licensee at any reasonable time, for the purpose of ensuring that the Licensee is abiding with the articles of this Licence and, or with any legal requirements:

Provided that in cases of urgency the Authority may carry out any such inspections outside normal business hours.

- 13.5. All the articles under this Licence shall for the purpose of law be considered as Decisions imposed by the Authority and any failure to abide with any such articles may, without prejudice to any other measures that the Authority may in accordance with law take, be sanctioned by the imposition of the appropriate fines in accordance with law.
- 13.6. Any further terms and conditions on the basis of which this Licence is being issued and which are contained in the Act, any other national and, or international legislation, the Proposal and any Decisions and, or Directives however so described of the Authority shall apply to the Licensee for all purposes and shall form an integral part of this Licence.
- 13.7. This Licence shall be governed by the Laws of Malta and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Maltese courts.

Signed in duplicate.



Ing. Antoine Sciberras  
Chief of Spectrum Management & Technology  
*for and on behalf of the Malta Communications Authority*





## Annex I - Description of Radio Frequency Spectrum and Technical Parameters

### A. Radio Frequency Spectrum:

#### *900 MHz band*

*Channel 5: 900 - 905 MHz / 945 - 950 MHz*

*Channel 6: 905 - 910 MHz / 950 - 955 MHz*

*Channel 7: 910 - 915 MHz / 955 - 960 MHz*

#### *1800 MHz band*

*Channel 6: 1735 - 1740 MHz / 1830 - 1835 MHz*

*Channel 7: 1740 - 1745 MHz / 1835 - 1840 MHz*

*Channel 8: 1745 - 1750 MHz / 1840 - 1845 MHz*

*Channel 9: 1750 - 1755 MHz / 1845 - 1850 MHz*

*Channel 10: 1755 - 1760 MHz / 1850 - 1855 MHz*

### B. List of Terrestrial Systems that can operate in the Radio Frequency Spectrum:

The following technical parameters shall be applied as an essential component of the conditions necessary to ensure coexistence in the absence of bilateral or multilateral agreements between neighbouring networks, without precluding less stringent technical parameters if agreed among the operators of such networks.

<b>Systems</b>	<b>Technical Parameters</b>
GSM, as specified by ETSI Standards, in particular EN 301 502, EN 301 511 and EN 301 908-18, also including Extended Coverage GSM IoT (EC-GSM-IoT)	
UMTS, as specified by ETSI Standards, in particular EN 301 908-1, EN 301 908-2, EN 301 908-3 and EN 301 908-11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carrier separation of 5 MHz or more between two neighbouring UMTS networks.</li> <li>Carrier separation of 2.8 MHz or more between a neighbouring UMTS network and a GSM network.</li> </ol>
LTE, as specified by ETSI Standards, in particular EN 301 908-1, EN 301 908-13, EN 301 908-14, EN 301 908-15 and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A frequency separation of 200 kHz or more between the LTE channel edge and the GSM carrier's channel edge between</li> </ol>

Systems	Technical Parameters
<p>EN 301 908-18, also including LTE Machine Type Communications (LTE-MTC) and LTE evolved Machine Type Communications (LTE-eMTC), which operate under the same technical conditions as LTE</p>	<p>a neighbouring LTE network and a GSM network.2. No frequency separation is required between the LTE channel edge and the UMTS carrier's channel edge between a neighbouring LTE network and a UMTS network.3. No frequency separation is required between LTE channel edges between two neighbouring LTE networks.</p>
<p>WiMAX, as specified by ETSI Standards, in particular EN 301 908-1, EN 301 908-21 and EN 301 908-22</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A frequency separation of 200 kHz or more between the WiMAX channel edge and the GSM carrier's channel edge between a neighbouring WiMAX network and a GSM network.</li> <li>2. No frequency separation is required between the WiMAX channel edge and the UMTS carrier's channel edge between a neighbouring WiMAX network and a UMTS network.</li> <li>3. No frequency separation is required between WiMAX channel edges between two neighbouring WiMAX networks.</li> </ol>
<p>Narrowband IoT (NB-IoT), as specified by ETSI standards, in particular EN 301 908-1, EN 301 908-13, EN 301 908-14, EN 301 908-15 and EN 301 908-18</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Standalone mode: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A frequency separation of 200 kHz or more between the standalone NB-IoT channel edge of a network and the UMTS/LTE channel edge of the neighbouring network;</li> <li>– A frequency separation of 200 kHz or more between the standalone NB-IoT channel edge of a network and the GSM channel edge of the neighbouring network.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. In-band mode: the same parameters apply as for LTE.</li> <li>3. Guard-band mode: a frequency separation of 200 kHz or more, between the NB-IoT channel edge and the edge of the operator's block, taking into account existing guard bands between operators' block edges or the edge of the operating band (adjacent to other services).</li> </ol>



## Annex II – Coverage Requirements and Timeframes

The following indicates the percentage of access in coverage territory (outdoor) of the Licensee's services that shall be ensured by the Licensee within the timeframes set hereunder in accordance with Article 8 of this Licence:

<b>Coverage Territory</b>	<b>Timeframe (From Date of Issue of Licence)</b>
99 %	Within 24 months

