



Press Release

Bonn, 29 August 2013
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Bundesnetzagentur publishes final decision on vectoring

Mr Homann: "Companies should drive forward rapid broadband roll-out"

The Bundesnetzagentur today published its final decision on the launch of vectoring in the Telekom Deutschland GmbH (Telekom) network. At the beginning of July, the Bundesnetzagentur had submitted a draft decision to the European Commission for its opinion, in line with the usual procedures. This process is now complete.

"I am very pleased that the European Commission has given the green light for our decision. The Bundesnetzagentur has created carefully balanced and reliable conditions for the introduction of vectoring in Germany, through swift, transparent and intensive Ruling Chamber proceedings. It is now up to all companies willing to invest to take advantage of the resulting opportunities for rolling out modern telecommunications networks, in particular in rural areas, and, together, to drive forward rapid broadband roll-out as is important for our country", stressed Jochen Homann, Bundesnetzagentur President.

Vectoring allows higher transmission rates to be reached in the existing copper local loop network than has thus far been the case with the already advanced VDSL technology. The new technology reduces mutual interference between adjacent copper pairs in a cable. However, the state of the art only permits access by one company to all the copper pairs in the street cabinet, making unbundled access – where VDSL technology is being used – no longer possible.

At the end of last year, Telekom submitted a request to the Bundesnetzagentur to restrict competitors' access options to the local loop, or last mile, at street cabinets, so as to allow it to implement vectoring in its network. The decision published today states that Telekom must continue to allow its competitors access to the local loop at the cabinets. Telekom may refuse access to this sub-loop variant under certain conditions, however, so as to enable vectoring to be implemented at the street cabinet by itself or another company. The decision therefore ensures that all players in the market will still be able to interconnect at the cabinet using optical fibre and implement vectoring, on condition that they offer an appropriate bitstream product under open access arrangements. This applies both to Telekom and to its competitors.



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Today's decision requires Telekom to modify, without delay, its current standard contracts for local loop access and for the bitstream product to be offered as an alternative where vectoring is used. These contracts are to set out the technical, operational and legal details concerning the actual implementation of vectoring. The standard contracts must be submitted to the Bundesnetzagentur for review.