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Serbia prepares to launch tender for 5G frequencies

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June 3 (SeeNews) - Serbia's telecommunications agency, RATEL, said it has started the procedure to launch a public auction for allocating 5G spectrum licences.



Vodafone 5G site in Hattstedt, Germany: Photo by Fabian Horst via Wikimedia, CC 4.0

RATEL plans to allocate up to three individual licences for the use of radio frequencies in the 694-790 MHz, 880-915/925-960 MHz, 1710-1785/1805-1880 MHz, 1920-1980/2100-2170 MHz, 2500-2690 MHz, and 3400-3800 MHz bands, it said in a decision published on Monday. The licences will be valid until March 5, 2047.

The regulator also specified the minimum fee that a holder of the licence will be required to pay for the use of the radio frequencies: 19.52 million euro (\$22.3 million) for the minimum package in the 694-790 MHz band; 15.91 million euro for the 885-915/930-960 MHz band; 13.7 million euro for the 1710-1785/1805-1880 MHz band; 7.17 million euro for the 1920-1980/2100-2170 MHz band; 8.2 million euro for the 2500-2690 MHz band, and 35.5 million euro for the minimum package in the 3400-3800 MHz band.

The fee will be paid in two equal instalments. The first instalment is due no later than when the license is obtained, and the second by June 30, 2026, as per the statement.

RATEL said it will now move to form a commission for the implementation of the tender, draft a public call for the auction and organise 30-day public consultations.

In August last year, Serbia's government said that RATEL will hold the auction for allocating 5G spectrum licences in the fourth quarter of 2025.

Serbia, with a population of about 6.6 million, has three mobile operators - state-owned Telekom Srbija, Emirates Telecom-controlled Vettel, and AI Srbija, part of AI Telekom Austria Group. At the end of 2024, Telekom Srbija had a 42.69% share of the mobile subscriber base, followed by Vettel with 33% and AI Srbija with 24.31%, according to [data](#) from RATEL.   
 (\$ = 0.877 euro)

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