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## PRESS RELEASE

### Publication of informational and consultation document, DIGITAL DIVIDEND II

The Czech Telecommunication Office (CTO) published its second informational and communication document on the digital dividend, aimed at stimulating public discussion, today.

The CTO considers this a very important issue and is convinced that the discussion on the potential utilization of the digital dividend, i.e., of the spectrum that shall become available via the transition to digital broadcasting, would undoubtedly have to involve all current or future users of spectrum or of the services provided by it.

The release of this document initiates the second round of public debate on the future utilization of the 470-862 MHz band. It focuses particularly on the questions surrounding the anticipated expansion of high definition television broadcasting (HDTV), mobile multimedia (mobile TV) and the introduction of broadband mobile networks. The document also deals with findings and conclusions of the workshop that took place in September 2008, summarizes the digitization process and includes questions for discussion on the topic of HDTV, local broadcasting, mobile networks and mobile multimedia.

The first round of public consultations on the digital dividend was conducted by the Czech Telecommunication Office from August 8 to September 19, 2008. The digital dividend issue is described in the consultation document "Digital Dividend - Information and Communication Document of the CTO." With its release, the CTO initiated discussion on topical issues regarding administering the radio spectrum in conjunction with the digitization of TV broadcasting and digitization's benefits known as the digital dividend. This discussion took place in August, and the results were summarized in the above-mentioned workshop last September.

The consultations and meetings at the workshop, as well as the evaluation of positions and monitoring of discussions on the digital dividend in the EU, confirmed that the utilization of the available band 470-862 MHz is crucial to the development of existing and new mobile electronic communications services. These facts then led to the conclusion that a second round of consultations, focusing specifically on the use of the digital dividend in the said band, would be expedient.

This document contains a summary of the issues surrounding selected key topics of the [digital dividend](#), as well as a set of basic questions for discussion. The Office expects those affected by this issue and the public to express their comments by 5 March 2009.

The recently initiated **second round of public debate will be concluded with a workshop entitled "The transition to digital TV broadcasting and the digital dividend II," held in Prague on March 17-18, 2009. The Office will inform of the specific program and location in advance.**

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