



Nederlandse Belangenvereniging
Draadloze Audio Verbindingen
Programme Making & Special Events

Houten, August 18, 2010 – Press release PMSE

Minister underestimates wireless thread

The PMSE association is very concerned on the future of the performing arts and culture in the Netherlands. The entertainment industry and the music world will be damaged. Theaters, houses of worship and schools will be affected. The reason: the plan of the minister of economic affairs to give more radio spectrum to mobile broadband internet at the expense of existing wireless audio applications.

Ignorance

Minister Maria van der Hoeven shows in her letter send to the 2nd chamber of the Dutch parliament of July 28 that she doesn't take the problems of the wireless audio applications seriously. And without reason, because there are about 250.000 users of wireless audio applications, especially wireless microphones. These are commonly used in society, at events, musicals, and other theater performances, on radio and broadcast productions, churches, social centers and schools. Because of the minister's decision, 90% of the systems will become redundant after 2017. This will have a direct impact on approximately a quarter of a million users. Thousands of organisations see their technical capabilities heavily reduced. Alternatives, if any, will be very expensive. Indirect viewers and visitors will be affected, because production of broadcast programs and concerts without the use of wireless microphones would be unthinkable. Minister van der Hoeven misses the essence completely. She greatly underestimates the enormous impact of this decision on society.

Background

More and more wireless applications are being used and these require spectrum. Unfortunately spectrum is not an endless resource. Recent developments in mobile telecommunication and everything connected to it are leaving less and less room for the traditional production of cultural events, musicals and concerts. Wireless microphones and

other wireless audio applications are being pushed aside in favor of mobile broadband access for smart phones and laptops. The problems which occur are heavily underestimated and minimized in official studies. Meanwhile a growing sector, which is important and valuable to society, will be reduced in its potential capabilities.

PMSE

The association for wireless audio applications PMSE, strives to secure spectrum of sufficient quality and quantity, in order to assure future realization of events, broadcast and theater productions. The exact date on which the Dutch government will grant the frequency band 790-862 MHz to the mobile telecommunications industry is not yet known. PMSE Netherlands demands enough time for our sector to adjust to new frequencies and demands a compensation settlement, in spectrum and for equipment that will become redundant.

The PMSE association is founded in 2009 en represents all users. Members are representatives of public and private broadcasters, broadcast facilitators, rental companies, theater and event associations and other organizations which have interest in wireless production technologies.

Note for editors/ not for publication:

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