



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Home Affairs

Proposed Regulatory Framework for the Licensing of Earth Stations in Bermuda

Public Consultation



Government of Bermuda

Department of Energy

**Proposed Regulatory Framework for the Licensing of
Earth Stations in Bermuda**

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1. Introduction

The Government of Bermuda, through the Ministry of Home Affairs and with technical input from the Regulatory Authority of Bermuda where appropriate, is undertaking a consultation to develop a modern policy for Earth Stations in Bermuda.

This initiative forms part of Bermuda's National Space Strategy and its broader objective to position the jurisdiction as a responsible, transparent, and internationally aligned hub for satellite and space-related activities.

The Government's policy intent extends beyond technical regulation. The Earth Stations regime is positioned within Bermuda's broader strategy for economic diversification beyond insurance and tourism, and within the Government's commitment to building domestic STEM capacity through educational partnerships and professional training. Stakeholder input on these dimensions is welcomed alongside views on the technical and licensing matters set out below.

As part of this process, the Government is seeking input from both current and prospective stakeholders on their experience, expectations, and views regarding the regulation of Earth Stations. This includes insights on international best practices, operational considerations, and any challenges or barriers that may affect the deployment and operation of Earth Stations in Bermuda.

The feedback received through this consultation will support the Government in developing a future balanced, proportionate, and forward-looking framework that facilitates investment, enables innovation, and ensures alignment with global regulatory approaches.

2. Policy Context

The global satellite communications ecosystem is undergoing rapid structural transformation. The deployment of large-scale Non-Geostationary Orbit (NGSO) constellations, the expansion of Earth Stations in Motion (ESIMs), and the emergence of Direct-to-Device (D2D) satellite services are redefining how connectivity is delivered across borders. At the same time, regulatory approaches in a number of jurisdictions are evolving, including the use of streamlined or flexible authorisation models for certain types of earth stations, and a growing convergence between satellite and terrestrial networks.

Against this backdrop, Bermuda is seeking to further understand how these developments may influence the deployment and operation of Earth Stations, and how regulatory frameworks can best respond to ongoing technological and market evolution. Bermuda's existing legislative framework, including the Electronic Communications Act 2011 and related instruments, provides a strong foundation for licensing communications networks and managing spectrum resources. This consultation represents an opportunity to assess how future approaches to Earth Station regulation can build on this foundation.

In particular, the Government is interested in stakeholder views on how regulatory frameworks can provide clarity and predictability while remaining proportionate to the risks associated with different types of earth station operations. This includes considerations related to licensing approaches, spectrum management practices, and alignment with international frameworks such as those of the International Telecommunication Union, as well as other recognised global standards and practices.

The Government also seeks input on how regulatory approaches can support innovation, facilitate market entry, and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens, while ensuring that Bermuda remains a responsible and internationally aligned jurisdiction for satellite activities.

Through this consultation, Bermuda aims to gather a broad range of perspectives from stakeholders to inform the development of a forward-looking, transparent, and effective approach to Earth Station regulation, consistent with its ambition to position itself as a trusted and competitive participant in the evolving global satellite ecosystem.

3. Key Areas for Stakeholder Input

In developing an approach to the regulation of Earth Stations, the Government has identified a number of key areas where stakeholder input will be particularly valuable.

This section sets out these areas to guide stakeholder input. It does not propose specific regulatory measures or outcomes. Rather, it is intended to focus responses on the issues that are most relevant to the design of a proportionate, transparent, and forward-looking framework.

Stakeholders are invited to provide evidence-based views, including examples from other jurisdictions where relevant.

3.1. Licensing Approaches

Regulatory frameworks for Earth Stations vary across jurisdictions, reflecting differences in market structure, scale of deployment, and spectrum use.

The Government is seeking views on how authorisation approaches can be structured to accommodate a range of Earth Station types, including user terminals, gateway stations, teleports, and TT&C facilities.

Input is invited on how licensing approaches can be designed to reflect differences in scale, complexity, and interference risk, while remaining proportionate and adaptable to evolving technologies.

3.2. Technology-Neutral Framework

The satellite sector is characterised by a diversity of system architectures, including geostationary and non-geostationary constellations, as well as evolving ground segment technologies.

The Government is interested in views on how regulatory approaches can remain technology-neutral, ensuring that requirements are based on functional and risk-based considerations rather than specific system types.

Stakeholders are invited to provide examples of how such approaches are implemented in practice.

3.3. Spectrum Charging Principles

Effective spectrum management is central to enabling Earth Station operations while ensuring coexistence with other services.

The Government is seeking views on how spectrum for Earth Stations is managed and authorised, as well as how charging mechanisms are structured in practice.

Stakeholders are invited to share perspectives on approaches that ensure efficient spectrum use, facilitate coordination, and maintain proportionality in fee structures.

3.4. Compliance and Oversight

Regulatory frameworks for Earth Stations typically include a range of compliance and oversight mechanisms, including technical requirements, reporting obligations, and enforcement powers.

The Government is interested in understanding how such frameworks are implemented in practice, and how they can be designed to ensure effective oversight without imposing unnecessary administrative burden.

Input is invited on how compliance frameworks can be designed to ensure effective oversight while minimising unnecessary administrative burden.

3.5. Economic Development and Capacity Building

The Government considers economic diversification and domestic capacity building integral to the long-term success of Bermuda's space and satellite sector. The Earth Stations regime is one mechanism among several through which Bermuda will pursue and through which Bermudians will gain access to STEM careers, technical training, and supplier participation in the sector.

The Government seeks to evolve our landscape through implementation of a framework akin to other jurisdictions that can support local economic participation, workforce development, technology transfer, and educational partnerships, and on how authorisation conditions can encourage these outcomes without imposing disproportionate burdens on operators.

Stakeholders are invited to share approaches that align regulatory authorisation with national economic and capacity-building objectives.

4. Consultation Questions

Stakeholders are invited to provide concise, reasoned responses to the following questions.

Licensing Structure

The Government is seeking to understand how Earth Stations are authorised across different jurisdictions and how licensing approaches can be designed to reflect varying types of operations, while remaining proportionate and adaptable to technological developments.

- Q1. How are Earth Stations typically authorised in the jurisdictions where you operate (e.g. individual licensing, class authorisation, registration-based regimes)? What approaches have proven most effective and why?
- Q2. In your view, should different types of Earth Stations (e.g. user terminals, gateways, TT&C stations) be subject to differentiated regulatory treatment? If so, what criteria should guide such distinctions?
- Q3. What level of regulatory oversight is appropriate for standardised, low-risk Earth Station deployments compared to larger or more complex installations?

Scope and Regulatory Boundaries

The Government is interested in understanding how regulatory responsibility and jurisdictional boundaries are addressed in practice, particularly in relation to cross-border operations and the accountability of operators.

- Q4. What regulatory mechanisms are commonly used to ensure accountability of Earth Station operators in a jurisdiction (e.g. local incorporation, local representative, contractual arrangements)? What approach would be most appropriate for Bermuda?

- Q5. How are Earth Stations in Motion (ESIMs), particularly on land and those operating on foreign-registered aircraft or vessels, typically treated in other jurisdictions? What considerations should Bermuda take into account in this regard?

Spectrum and Fees

The Government seeks input on how spectrum for Earth Stations is managed and authorised in practice, as well as how fee structures can be designed to be fair, transparent, and proportionate to the nature of operations.

- Q6. What spectrum management and authorisation practices for Earth Stations have you found to be effective in other jurisdictions?
- Q7. How are spectrum fees for Earth Stations typically structured, and what approaches are considered fair and proportionate from an operator perspective?
- Q8. Which frequency bands are most used for Earth Station operations in your experience? Are there specific bands that require closer coordination or regulatory attention?

Operational and Compliance Framework

The Government is seeking views on how operational and compliance requirements can be designed to ensure effective oversight while remaining proportionate to the risks and scale of Earth Station activities.

- Q9. What types of technical and operational requirements are typically applied to Earth Stations, and how can these be calibrated to reflect different levels of interference risk and operational scale?
- Q10. What cybersecurity and incident management practices are commonly implemented in satellite and Earth Station operations? How should regulatory frameworks take these into account?
- Q11. What considerations arise in relation to lawful interception capabilities for satellite-based services, particularly in non-terrestrial network environments?
- Q12. Are there additional operational or compliance obligations (e.g. resilience, emergency communications, security) that regulators should consider? If so, how can these be implemented in a proportionate manner?

Transparency, Investment and Competitiveness

The Government is interested in understanding how regulatory frameworks can enhance transparency and predictability, while supporting investment and maintaining Bermuda's competitiveness as a jurisdiction for satellite activities.

- Q13. What level of transparency (e.g. public registers or disclosures) is typically associated with Earth Station authorisations, and what are the benefits or risks of such approaches?
- Q14. What factors most influence decisions to deploy Earth Station infrastructure in a jurisdiction? How can regulatory frameworks support investment, innovation, and long-term operational certainty?

Economic Development and Capacity Building

The Government is interested in understanding how Earth Station operations can contribute to economic diversification, local workforce participation, and STEM capacity development in Bermuda.

- Q15. How do Earth Station operators in other jurisdictions contribute to local economic development, including local employment, supplier development, and the broader tax base?
- Q16. What educational partnerships, training programmes, or STEM initiatives are commonly associated with Earth Station deployment? How can regulatory frameworks support these outcomes?
- Q17. What considerations should Bermuda take into account in linking authorisation conditions to local capacity-building outcomes, while remaining proportionate and consistent with international obligations?

5. Submission Procedure

Respondent Information and Indicative Operational Profile

To support an evidence-based assessment and to better understand the range of current and potential Earth Station activities in Bermuda, respondents are invited to provide the information set out below, where applicable.

The provision of this information is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a formal application, commitment, or pre-authorisation request. The purpose is to assist the Government and the Regulatory Authority in understanding operational models, technical characteristics, and market interest relevant to Earth Station deployment in Bermuda.

Respondent Identification

- Legal name of the responding entity
- Jurisdiction of incorporation
- Registered address
- Website

Designated Contact

- Name and title of primary contact person
- Email address
- Telephone number

Indicative Description of Activities

- General description of current or contemplated activities in Bermuda (e.g., gateway operations, teleport facilities, TT&C functions, user terminal deployment, ESIM operations, Direct-to-Device-related activities, Earth Exploration Satellite Service ground stations, or other Earth Station functions)
- Indicative implementation timeframe, where known

Spectrum and Technical Characteristics (Where Known)

- Frequency bands that may be utilised
- Type of satellite system (e.g. GEO, MEO, NGSO)
- High-level indication of scale (e.g., number of sites, network architecture, anticipated volume of user terminals)

Respondents may designate information as confidential where appropriate.

Submission Requirements

Written submissions must comply with the following requirements:

- Clearly reference: “Consultation on Earth Stations Regulation – Bermuda.”
- Respond to questions by reference number;
- Submissions should be provided in PDF format where possible.

Publication of Statement of Results

Following the close of the consultation period, the Ministry of Home Affairs , will review all submissions received.

The Government reserves the right to publish non-confidential submissions.

A Statement of Results summarising stakeholder feedback and outlining the Government’s policy direction will be published in due course. The Statement of Results may include:

- A summary of responses received;
- The Government’s analysis of key issues raised;
- Identification of key considerations for the development of the regulatory approach;
- Confirmation of next steps, including any future policy, regulatory, or legislative measures.

The Government reserves the right to refine, develop, or supplement elements of its approach following consideration of stakeholder responses.

Submission Deadline

The deadline for the submission of contributions to the public consultation is 19th of June 2026.

Submissions will be accepted via forum.gov.bm.

The Government of Bermuda welcomes the participation of all stakeholders in this consultation and values the insights and perspectives that will be shared. Stakeholder input will play a key role in informing the development of a balanced, forward-looking, and effective approach to Earth Station regulation, supporting Bermuda’s continued development as a trusted and competitive jurisdiction for satellite and space-related activities.

6. Disclaimer

This consultation document is issued for the purpose of stakeholder engagement and information gathering and does not constitute a binding determination or legal advice.

Nothing in this document should be interpreted as establishing a final policy position or regulatory outcome.

The Government of Bermuda reserves the right to develop, refine, or modify its approach to Earth Station regulation following consideration of stakeholder input and any further analysis.