

SPECTRUM

3.7 GHz bidding nears €3bn in Italy 5G contest

Source: Total Telecom

Bidding continues apace in the Italian 5G spectrum auction, driven by interest in the 3.7 GHz band, which had attracted offers totalling almost €3 billion by the close of the contest's ninth day on 25th October 2018 [[read more](#)].

Austria auctions the 3.4–3.8 GHz band in regional licences

Source: Cullen International

The Austrian regulator, Telekom-Control-Commission (TKK), published the tender documents for the auction of the 3.4–3.8 GHz band [[read more – subscription required](#)].

INTERNET

UK home buyers rate broadband as 'more important than crime rate'

Source: Total Telecom

Home buyers in the UK are more concerned with whether their property has good broadband access than they are with the areas prevailing crime rate, according to an industry expert [[read more](#)].

INNOVATION

Italy joins European partnership on blockchain supporting the

delivery of cross-border digital public services

Source: European Commission

On 27 September 2018, Italy became the 27th country to sign the Declaration creating a European Blockchain Partnership [[read more](#)].

Council backs Commission's plans to invest €1 billion in world-class European super-computers

Source: European Commission

The Competitiveness Council adopted a Regulation to establish the European High Performance Computing (EuroHPC) Joint Undertaking – a new legal and funding structure, which will pool resources from 25 European countries, build supercomputing and data infrastructure, and support research and innovation in the field involving scientists, businesses and industry [[read more](#)].

ECOMMERCE

Cross-border shopping in Europe 2018

Source: Ecommerce News

Online shopping across borders is more popular in Ireland for example than in Poland, where 62 % of consumers shop domestically only. This is shown by the PayPal Cross-Border Consumer Research [[read more](#)].

Mobile accounts for 44% of online transactions in Europe

Source: Ecommerce News

Transactions completed on the smartphone continue to rise globally. Especially in Northern Europe and Japan, mobile transaction now represents over half of online transactions. In Europe, Sweden is the absolute leader with 60 % [\[read more\]](#).

Source: Ofcom

Ofcom has on 26th September set out proposals to ensure fairer, more transparent prices for mobile customers who pay for handsets and airtime within the same contract [\[read more\]](#).

INFORMATION SOCIETY

Moving forward with digital public services in Europe

Source: European Commission

The overall performance on eGovernment in the EU is moving in the right direction. Today 58% of EU citizens choose to get in touch with their public administration online and the overall online availability of public services is 82% [\[read more\]](#).

CONSUMER

Clear and fair handset charges for mobile users

POST

ERGP committed to open discussions on the review of the postal regulatory framework

Source: Cullen International

Postal operators and regulators seem to agree on the need for a new fit-for-purpose and flexible postal regulatory framework. Changes are required to ensure a fair level playing field for all postal and parcel delivery operators, and to reflect the new needs of European consumers [\[read more – subscription required\]](#).