



CTU-GSOA Workshop Satellite Connectivity

Tuesday 19 May 2026

Online



Cayman Islands Licensing Framework

- The Cayman Islands ICT licensing framework identifies three distinct elements:
 - Networks (e.g. fixed, mobile, broadcast)
 - Services (e.g. cellular, telephony, internet)
 - Spectrum
- Historically it only recognised satellite services as:
 - VSAT terminals – for major ICT licensees only
 - Emergency Communications – permitting satellite usage when terrestrial networks are compromised
- June 2023 permission was granted for the use of ESIM on certain aircraft and seagoing vessels under certain conditions





Initial consultation on Satellite Licensing

- URCO recognised the increasing demand for, importance of, and innovation and resilience offered by, satellite services
- In November 2024 we published a consultation on the Framework for Licensing Satellite-Based Telecommunications Providers
- The key issues were
 - The introduction of a new satellite-network licence type
 - How to deal with the issues associated with infrastructure being outside the jurisdiction
 - e.g. 911, legal intercept, outage reporting
 - Licensing of VSATs connected to a licensed satellite network
 - Radio interference
 - Keeping local traffic onshore





Final Determination on Satellite Licensing

- In September 2025 the Final Determination on the Framework for the Licensing of Satellite-Based Telecommunications Service Providers was published, covering
 - A new major class of ICT network licence (Type H – Satellite Service Provider)
 - Peer with terrestrial operators if there is an in-jurisdiction gateway
 - Orbital-debris mitigation
 - An additional class of ICT service licence (Type 17 – Connectivity Service Provider)
 - The treatment of VSAT terminals for Type H licensees
 - Spectrum Fees





How does the Framework Apply?

New licence
type

- Satellite ISP (e.g. Business-to-Consumer)
 - **Type H** (Satellite Network)
 - Type 9 (Internet Service Provider)
 - Type S (Spectrum)
- Satellite Direct-to-Handset
 - **Type H** (Satellite Network)
 - Type 3 (Mobile Telephony)*
 - Type S (Spectrum)
- Satellite End-to-End connectivity (e.g. Business-to-Business)
 - **Type H** (Satellite Network)
 - **Type 17** (Connectivity Service Provider)
 - Type S (Spectrum)



* Unless providing service through an existing Mobile Licensee



The Framework aims to:

- Be a clear and proportionate pathway for licensing satellite providers
- Support innovation including non-GEO and direct-to-handset
- Licence global infrastructure maintaining appropriate local oversight
- Safeguard public safety, lawful intercept and interference
- Enhance resilience and continuity under adverse conditions

“URCO has carefully considered the national interest, public sentiment, objections and concerns of existing operators, international practices, and the unique characteristics of satellite networks.” *URCO Press Release 25 September 2025*