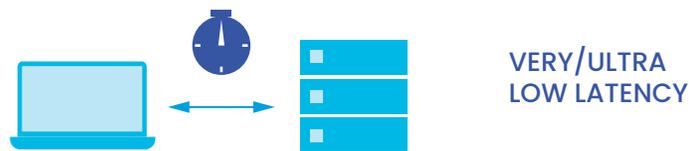




ENSURING WI-FI CONNECTIVITY IN A DYNAMIC AND GREEN EUROPEAN SOCIETY

A NEW GENERATION OF WI-FI – WI-FI 6E AND WI-FI 7

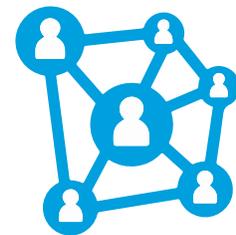


INVISIBLE YET OMNIPRESENT: THE IMPORTANCE OF WI-FI IN OUR LIVES

Wi-Fi plays a central role in connectivity in Europe, accounting for over half of total traffic (fixed and mobile) transferred over the Internet and generating enormous economic value. As the trend towards wireless connectivity continues to increase globally, Wi-Fi is crucial in our lives, providing wireless connectivity inside our homes and offices, as well as at public hotspots such as hotels, cafes and restaurants, airports, libraries, or hospitals. **The Covid-19 health crisis has increased time spent on fixed broadband inside our homes. This has further underscored the importance and need for Very High Capacity Networks at home, including Wi-Fi.** During the Covid-19 lockdowns, we have safely continued working, shopping, learning, and communicating with our doctors. This trend will continue once the epidemic is over.

The Dynamic Spectrum Alliance aims to provide a constructive contribution to the debate about Europe's 2030 Digital Targets, as we believe Europe has the opportunity to drive productivity, economic growth and societal development through the deployment of the next generations of Wi-Fi. It is essential that the **regulatory framework ensures that Europe can respond to the expected increased demand for Wi-Fi connectivity and unlocks the digital innovation enabled by this technology**, in particular for start-ups and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), which are at the forefront of European digitalization.

THE ROLE OF WI-FI IN BUILDING THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE



Wi-Fi is key to the **digitalization across society** (public services, SMEs, industries, etc.). As Wi-Fi is the primary way European citizens and businesses access the internet, especially indoors, Wi-Fi 6E (designed to operate in the 6 GHz band) and Wi-Fi 7 (the new standard in the pipeline) will provide much-needed wireless connectivity. Thanks to their low cost, easy deployment, and enhanced performance, they will also support the widespread adoption of new digital applications and services that will enhance the productivity of industrial plants, enterprise campuses and other business facilities in a variety of domains.



Wi-Fi 7 will **boost innovation**, unlocking the emergence of the future generation of devices and applications, such as advanced augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR), holographic or haptic systems. Wi-Fi also complements and thereby boosts innovative applications based on other networks (such as 5G, 6G, or fibre). These technologies will provide European citizens the experience expected in a truly digital society and will unfold massive economic opportunities in new markets for European SMEs and startups.



Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7 can play a **key role in Europe's green transition**, providing improved efficiency thereby reducing the carbon footprint of this technology. A combination of fibre and Wi-Fi 6E/7 is the greenest solution for indoor connectivity. Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7 will also enable reduction of CO2 emissions in other sectors (e.g. remote working and learning, and telemedicine can drastically reduce traffic and greenhouse gas emissions).

WHAT IS THE PRIORITY AHEAD FOR THE EU?



The EU Digital Policy programme - which will operationalise the 2030 Digital Compass based on the ongoing discussions and public consultation - should fully reflect the **role played by Wi-Fi in achieving 2030 Digital Compass connectivity targets and unleashing the full potential of digital** (eMedicine - at home and in hospitals, eEducation, manufacturing, public sector modernization, enterprise take up of digital technologies) **and green technologies**. If Europe wants to reap the full benefits of the Wi-Fi-based economy, it should **ensure additional spectrum for Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7**. Prominent economies and digital pioneers around the world such as the US, Brazil and South Korea are already leading the way on this front releasing the 6 GHz (5925-7125 MHz) band for Wi-Fi use.

ABOUT THE DYNAMIC SPECTRUM ALLIANCE

The Dynamic Spectrum Alliance is the leading global spectrum organization promoting and showcasing the value of spectrum sharing, and specifically the benefits of Wi-Fi connectivity in the 27 European Union countries. For more information about Wi-Fi connectivity, please visit the Alliance's **website**.



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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