

# India's 3G auction to be postponed

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By Cantab Wireless

Cantab Wireless is not sure if this is news anymore: India's 3G auction is likely to be postponed. Rather it would be news if the auction process were to proceed.

The auction process, which was originally supposed to take place in 2008, had been given a new deadline of the 7<sup>th</sup> of December (2009) earlier this year. This deadline is now only two months away, and again the time is running out. The first milestone of the current auction process was on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September when potential bidders were to receive a revised Information Memorandum. This did not happen, and it is not yet known when it is going to take place. As a result, the auction day itself is likely to be postponed too.

India's BWA auction schedule is still tied to the schedule of the 3G auction, starting 2 days after the close of the 3G auction. Cantab Wireless has analysed this connection many times before it its news articles, and the situation is especially unfortunate for new WiMAX operators since their competitive position is getting weaker all the time; the state-owned 3G operators BSNL and MTNL already have 3G licences and they are offering wireless broadband services.

A possible reason for the delay is that the Department of Telecommunications does not have access to all the spectrum it is planning to auction. Some of this spectrum is still used by the defence ministry, which seems to be unwilling to vacate it.