

BEIRG

BRITISH ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY RADIO GROUP

Securing access to spectrum for the UK's creative industries

20
YEARS

2004 - 2024

**Global Perspectives on Spectrum Sharing -
A WinnForum Sponsored Event**



Duncan Bell (**BEIRG** & **Wideband Consulting**)

A founding member of **BEIRG** (British Entertainment Industry Radio Group) and an independent consultant with 40 years' experience in the live audio industry

Since 2004, Duncan's work with **BEIRG** has played a key role in making the **PMSE** sector clearly visible and better understood by regulators, government departments and stakeholders alike

Through a specialisation in audio for theatre and special events, he has a broad experience of implementing large scale, multi-channel wireless systems across the West End, the UK and Europe

He has a detailed knowledge of spectrum planning and co-ordination, which, together with close collaborations with leading manufacturers has helped shape the design, function, and application of the ubiquitous wireless systems we are all familiar with today

With my industry colleagues from manufacturing, trade associations, rental companies and more, BEIRG remains at the forefront of discussions and engagement with Ofcom, Westminster, and the wider industry to ensure a secure future for **PMSE** users

What is **BEIRG**?

British Entertainment Industry Radio Group

- **BEIRG** was formed in 2004 and has campaigned to maintain Programme Making and Special Events (**PMSE**) access to sufficient quantity and quality of interference-free spectrum for use by wireless production tools such as wireless microphones and wireless in-ear monitor (IEM) systems
- Through the Digital TV switchover in 2012, the clearance of 800MHz band, the subsequent White Space Device (WSD) program, the 700MHz clearance in 2018 and more recently Article 1.5 at WRC-23, **BEIRG** has engaged with Ofcom and the UK Government to keep the shows running
- **Our current aims are to achieve long-term spectrum security for PMSE and the UK's creative industries against the backdrop of an ever-increasing pressure on spectrum resources from a range of parties, and the uncertainty that surrounds the future of Digital Terrestrial Television.**

Where is **PMSE**?

PMSE is everywhere, everyday – the content created plays an essential role that connects people, generates emotion and creates the content we all consume, every minute of every day, via an ever- growing range of platforms across the digital economy

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Live Music



TV Studio Production



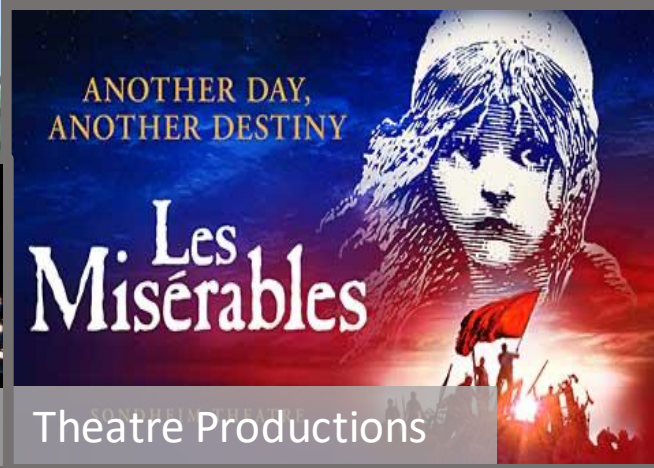
Sports Coverage



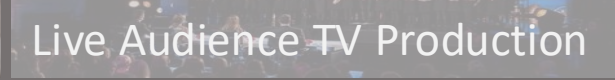
Location Recording



ENG – News Gathering



Theatre Productions



Live Audience TV Production



Sports Coverage

Why is this important?

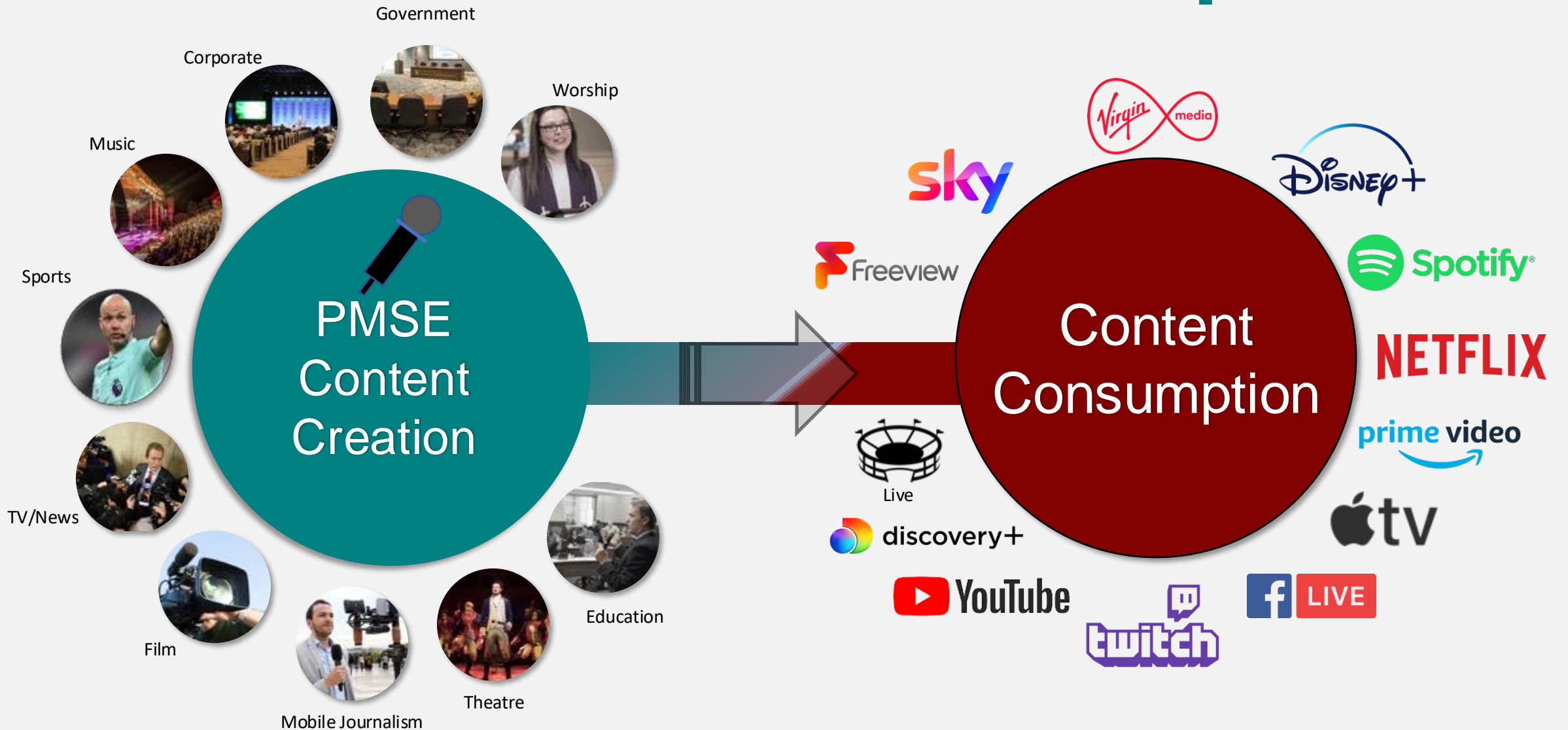
- The **PMSE** audio capture is critical to the successful content creation

Without PMSE there is no content

- Content creation enables consumption
- This relationship is symbiotic whether it is live performance, or via a multitude of platforms. i.e. more content requires more platforms, while growing platforms demand more content
- Demand for **PMSE** created content is experiencing significant growth driven by both the traditional audiences and the new global audience realised by new delivery platforms
- The creative industries contributed £108 bn to the UK economy in 2022, employing over 2.3 million people. They remain one of the fastest growing sectors have experienced double digit growth for nearly two decades

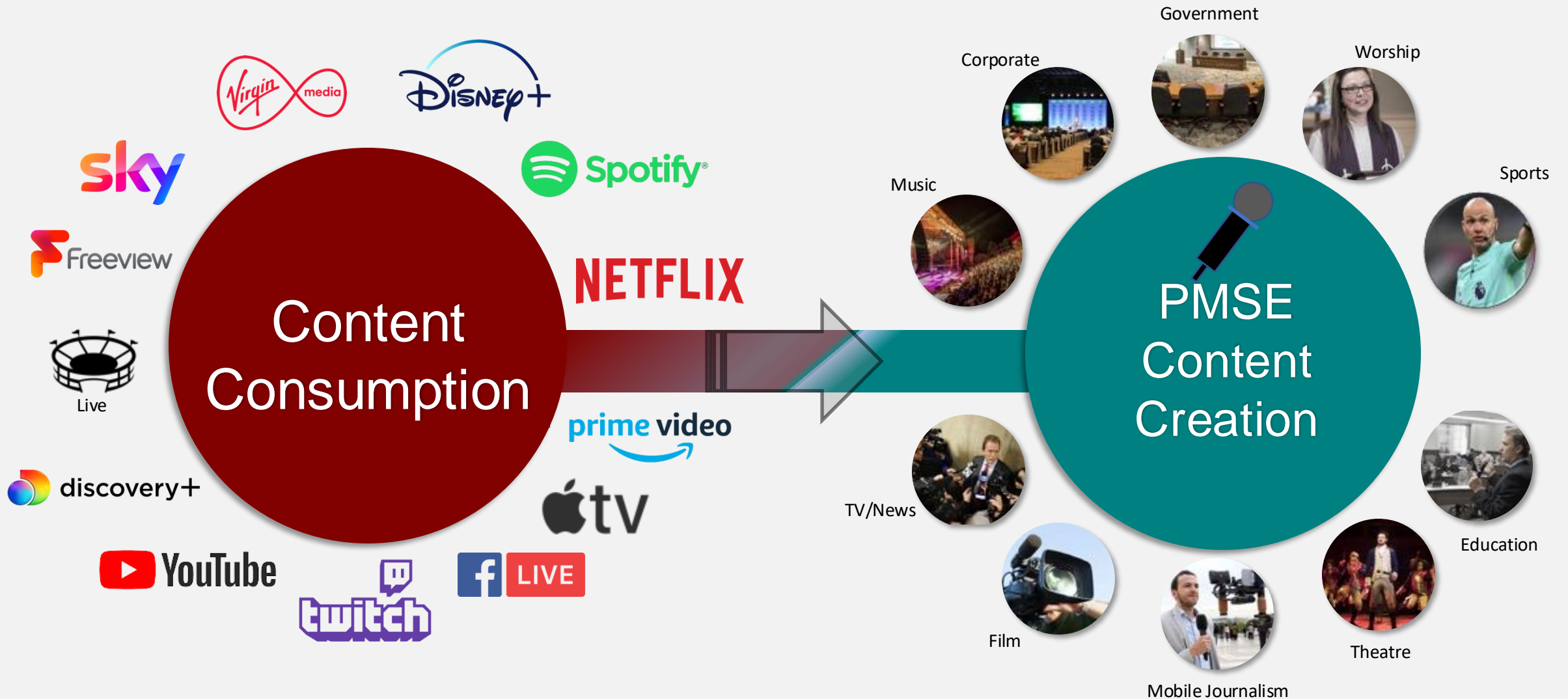
Content Creation

Enables Consumption



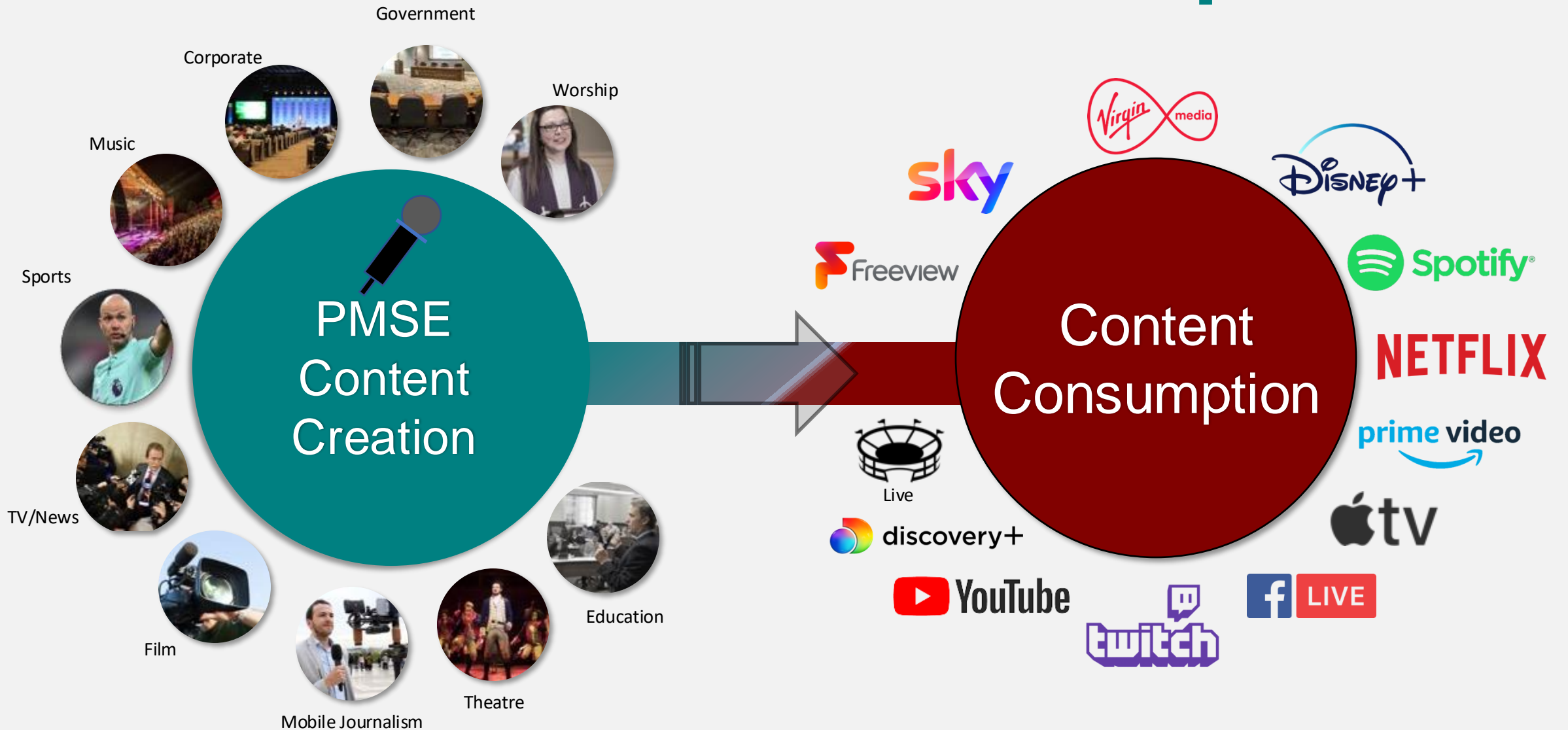
Content Consumption

Drives Creation



Content Creation

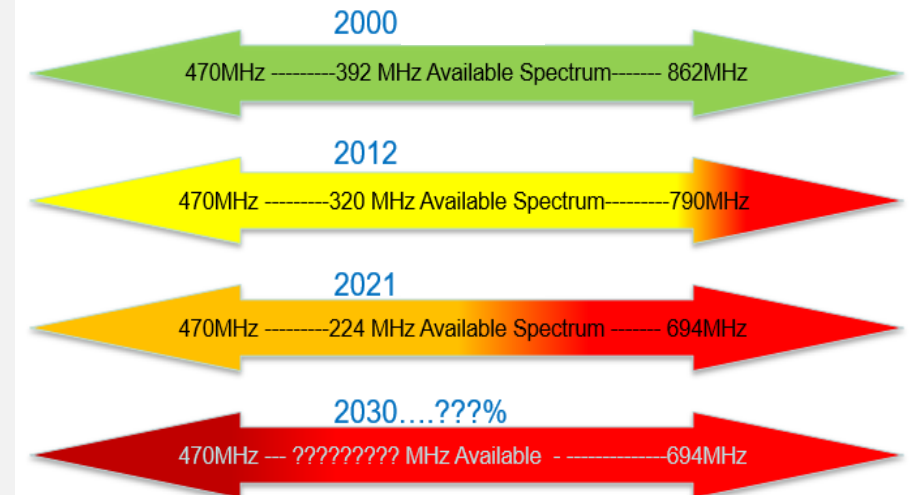
Enables Consumption



The Changing Spectrum Landscape

- Over the last 12 years we have seen **PMSE** spectrum reduce dramatically
- In parallel with this, the industry has improved spectral efficiency and equipment agility
- Demand and scale of productions are growing and even with technological advances, **PMSE** still requires a significant amount of spectrum.

UK PMSE has suffered a 43% reduction in available UHF spectrum since 2012



UK example but a very similar story throughout Europe and beyond

PMSE Sharing

- **PMSE** applications are generally low power and therefore lead to multiple systems working in close-proximity that enables multiple uses of the same, or closely co-ordinated, bands driving highly efficient use and sharing of spectrum within our own sector
- **PMSE** has successfully shared interleaved spectrum with Terrestrial TV for many decades
- **PMSE** spectrum co-ordination has enabled mutual access on a geographic basis in a number of ways over the same period
- **PMSE** shares the DME band (961-1154 MHz), on a UK only basis, with aeronautical systems
- **BEIRG** and the wider global **PMSE** stakeholders are committed to working with regulators to establish viable spectrum bands and access conditions to ensure the future existence and growth of **PMSE** activities

Summary

- Spectrum sharing that recognizes appropriate protection of existing use cases is not a new concept, but requires close collaboration between regulators and stakeholders to develop smart solutions that safeguard the future for PMSE users
- Global regulators must recognize the collective need for a long-term solution that allows PMSE to thrive and in turn feed the digital revolution
- Globally harmonized spectrum, in the 470-694 MHz range dedicated to content creation is a critical requirement for us all as many activities are peripatetic on a worldwide basis



Thank you for listening
For more information

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