



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## **COMMISSION PROPOSES TO EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF IN-FLIGHT WI-FI**

### *Seeks Comment on Innovative Use of Spectrum for Air-Ground Mobile Broadband Service*

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission today took action to expand the availability of in-flight broadband connectivity to airline passengers. The Commission proposes to establish an air-ground mobile broadband service, using a ground-based network to communicate with planes, by taking advantage of technical innovations to expand sharing of certain spectrum among users. Expanded availability of in-flight Wi-Fi will help meet demand from travelers to connect to a full range of communications services while flying in the contiguous United States.

More options for in-flight broadband are likely to increase competition, improve the quality of service, and lead to lower prices. Improved connectivity benefits business and leisure travelers alike in their desire for ubiquitous broadband access to keep in touch with work, family, and friends while flying.

The Commission proposes to establish this air-ground mobile broadband service as a secondary allocation in the 14.0-14.5 GHz band, the same band used by satellite companies for Fixed-Satellite Service (FSS) uplinks on a primary basis and by certain Federal services on a secondary basis. The service would be required to protect primary FSS in the band from harmful interference and to coordinate with other users in the band.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Notice) proposes technical rules to assure that the service's operations will not cause harmful interference. It also seeks comment on licensing rules by which the Commission would license the service in either two 250-megahertz blocks, one 500-megahertz block, or some other spectrum block size. The Notice proposes to award these licenses by auction.

Action by the Commission May 9, 2013, by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 13-66). Chairman Genachowski, Commissioners Clyburn, Rosenworcel, and Pai. Separate statements issued by Chairman Genachowski, Commissioners Clyburn, Rosenworcel, and Pai. Commissioner McDowell not participating.

Docket No.: GN Docket No. 13-114.

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