

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI**

*Re: Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Provide Spectrum for the Operation of Medical Body Area Network, First Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, □
ET Docket No. 08-59*

This is the second of two items on today's agenda about major innovations to harness communications technology to save lives.

In his new book *The Creative Destruction of Medicine*, Dr. Eric Topol wrote, quote, "The emergence of powerful tools to digitize human beings with full support of [our Internet] infrastructure creates an unparalleled opportunity to forever change how health care is delivered."

At the FCC we have embraced the opportunities of communications technology to improve health care results and lower health care costs. The National Broadband Plan identified health care as an area of enormous promise for broadband-enabled innovation. The plan included many recommendations, which we have been implementing.

We entered into an unprecedented partnership with the Food and Drug Administration to help ensure that communications-related medical innovations can swiftly and safely be brought to market.

We've also proposed USF reforms, and easing testing restrictions on anchor institutions like universities and research organizations. I expect an order on this in the coming months.

And late last year, the Commission adopted an order to dedicate spectrum for Medical Micropower Networks, which have the potential - literally - to enable paraplegics to stand.

Today, we take the next step forward on our health communication agenda with new rules to allow greater use of spectrum for Medical Body Area Network, or MBAN, devices. As I saw last week at George Washington University Hospital, this technology has tremendous potential to untether patients from tubes and wires, and improve the quality of health care and ensure better outcomes for patients.

How much does monitoring matter? Philips estimates that, by decreasing hospital-acquires infections, MBAN monitoring can save an average of up to \$12,000 per patient.

Today's item will help maximize the potential of MBAN technology by providing access to relatively quiet spectrum where this technology can develop and flourish.

With this order, the U.S. becomes the first country in the world to dedicate spectrum for Medical Body Area Networks in hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices, as well as in homes.

Previously, this spectrum was used almost exclusively by commercial test pilots. This

order represents a multi-industry effort to foster innovation in this spectrum band by allowing distinct but compatible users to share airwaves.

This item is a great example of how parties working together and with the FCC can achieve win-win outcomes for various industries and for the America people.

Thank you to all the parties – in particular our partners at NTIA and DoD, who helped address interference issues in the 2360 – 2400 MHz band through sharing, compromise, and good faith. This order would not have been possible without collaboration among public and private parties.

I would like to recognize GE Healthcare, Philips and the Aerospace and Flight Test Radio Coordinating Council, which all worked diligently with us to develop a framework for sharing, a goal the Commission is realizing today. We welcome other innovators to join their efforts.

This creative use of spectrum provides wireless health manufacturers with the certainty they need to streamline their product development, which for many years operated on a variety of frequencies.

I expect it will eventually lead to technologies not just for health care facilities, but also for in-home use.

This item also complements advances in machine-to-machine technology that allows anywhere, anytime medical monitoring over 3G, 4G and Wi-Fi networks.

Thank you to all the Commissioners for their input and enthusiasm. I'd like to particularly acknowledge Commissioner McDowell for his passion, interest and input on health-related issues like these.

Finally, thank you to the FCC staff who have been working on this issue – Josh Gottheimer and Charles Mathias in my office, and Julie Knapp, Bruce Romano, and Geraldine Matise in our Office of Engineering and Technology.