



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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. Circ 1974).

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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Cecilia Sulhoff (202) 418-0587
Email: cecilia.sulhoff@fcc.gov

FCC MAKES 150 MEGAHERTZ OF CONTIGUOUS SPECTRUM AVAILABLE FOR MOBILE BROADBAND AND OTHER USES THROUGH INNOVATIVE SHARING POLICIES

Three-tiered sharing scheme will incorporate new sensing technologies, among other innovations

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission adopted rules for the Citizens Broadband Radio Service, creating a new spectrum band and taking a major step forward in spectrum policy by authorizing advanced spectrum sharing among commercial and federal operators. As spectrum is a finite resource, today’s action by the Commission will combine spectrum sharing tools and policies to make available 150 megahertz of spectrum for mobile broadband and other commercial uses.

Specifically, the Report and Order adopts innovative spectrum sharing techniques to create a new three-tiered commercial radio service spanning 3550 MHz to 3700 MHz. Today’s action adds 100 megahertz of spectrum newly available for wireless broadband to the 50 megahertz of spectrum already available for commercial use in that band, a significant step towards meeting the nation’s 500 megahertz goal.

The use of advanced spectrum-sharing technology will allow wireless broadband systems to share spectrum with military radars and other incumbent systems, while protecting important federal missions. The Report and Order establishes a roadmap to allowing commercial operations anywhere in the continental U.S. by leveraging spectrum sensing technologies. In an initial phase, coastal protections will be 77 percent smaller than previously contemplated to protect military users. This arrangement reflects extensive cooperative work between the FCC, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Department of Defense.

In addition to the protected incumbent tier, the Report and Order authorizes two commercial tiers of use in the Citizens Broadband Radio Service. The General Authorized Access tier, which allows any user with a certified device to operate without seeking any further Commission approval, will permit low-cost entry into the band, similar to unlicensed uses. A Priority Access tier will make geographically targeted, short-term priority rights to a portion of the band available through future spectrum auctions. One or more Spectrum Access Systems, operated by private commercial entities, will facilitate coexistence among the different user tiers.

A Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking also adopted today seeks comment on several focused topics related to implementation of the rules adopted in the Report and Order.

GN Docket No. 12-354

Action by the Commission April 17, 2015, by Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 15-47). Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners Clyburn and Rosenworcel approving and issuing separate statements; Commissioners Pai and O'Rielly approving in part and concurring in Part and issuing separate statements.

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