

Clearing U.S. Spectrum & the Public Interest

April 18, 2019

“The overriding goal of good spectrum policy is to move spectrum to its highest and best use--as quickly as possible and at the lowest possible cost to society. The 'market-based approach' advocated by the C-Band Alliance is the best means of achieving that goal. The larger public interest benefits of enabling 5G use of this 'goldilocks' mid-band spectrum in the 18 to 36 months committed by our plan dwarf any benefits from a public auction conducted at some point many years in the future. In pursuit of maximizing benefits in the public interest, consideration of only one element oversimplifies this complex undertaking.”

Peter Pitsch
Head of Advocacy and
Government Relations
CBA

Myth

Only a government auction will benefit taxpayers

Only foreign interests will benefit from monetizing taxpayer-owned C-band spectrum

Fact

- Clearing spectrum for 5G with a market-based approach will speed economic growth, generating tax receipts, jobs and other societal benefits years faster than the alternative.
- The public interest is served not only by generating tax revenues. Technology innovation, job creation and the spread of broadband services also create significant benefits to society.
- Government-run reallocations and auctions of spectrum have historically taken many years to complete—from seven to twelve years in the most recent examples.
- The CBA proposal commits to clearing spectrum in 18 to 36 months. This will accelerate the 5G innovation wheel that is estimated at over \$500 billion in U.S. GDP by 2027.
- The speed provided by a market-based approach produces gains to consumers, American businesses, U.S. security interests and the larger society that dwarf proceeds produced by public auctions years from now. By then the U.S. could find itself seriously behind in the race to 5G.
- The primary beneficiaries of this solution will be American consumers, businesses and society, due to the accelerated deployment of 5G and the technology innovation it will create.
- The plan was volunteered in response to an FCC inquiry. The CBA proposal speeds access to the spectrum by as much as a decade. This clearly demonstrates a commitment to helping the U.S. win the race to 5G.
- The CBA proposal benefits all Americans by ensuring the continued delivery of highly reliable television services and other critical applications already using mid-band spectrum—something we all take for granted, but which could be put at risk in this proceeding.

An FCC-run process is the only fair way to auction spectrum and ensure taxpayer benefit

- Private transactions involving spectrum happen frequently in the U.S., and the CBA proposal includes FCC oversight at every important stage of the process.
- Under a market-based process, satellite operators have the knowledge and expertise to balance protection of their users' requirements for satellite services while maximizing spectrum clearing for 5G.

Mid-band spectrum is not essential to the U.S. race for 5G

- China, Korea, Japan and much of Europe recognize the value of this band for 5G and are already deploying services.
- The challenge of the U.S. is that this spectrum is already in use, delivering television and radio signals, as well as critical weather information and other essential applications that rely upon the unique characteristics of C-band spectrum.
- The CBA proposal balances the requirements of speeding access to the spectrum to propel 5G deployments while ensuring that existing services will continue.

Rural American communities are not served by the market-based approach

- The CBA plans a transparent process that will accommodate service providers that wish to provide 5G services in all areas of the U.S., including rural areas.
- The CBA also would protect the delivery by C-band satellite of highly reliable television services, key to rural communities across the U.S.

The CBA proposal is attempting to short-cut what should be a government-run auction

- The CBA volunteered a solution in response to an FCC proceeding examining how to use the band for 5G without harming incumbents. The CBA proposal is based on many precedents. Market-based solutions can often streamline cumbersome government processes.
- Given that China, Korea, Japan and much of Europe have already assigned licenses for 5G use in the mid-band range, time is of the essence.
- The most effective step that the U.S. government can take to spur U.S. leadership in 5G is to quickly adopt the CBA's market-based proposal.

**Need more information? U.S. Federal Communications Commission Proceeding
GN Docket No. 18-122 and GN Docket No. 17-183**



Our proposal to the Federal Communications Commission (the "FCC") would establish a breakthrough, Market-Based Approach to allow satellite operators to clear frequencies to enable terrestrial mobile operators to access a portion of C-band spectrum. This would accelerate the deployment of next generation 5G services, unleashing technology innovation, jobs and accompanying economic expansion for the United States. We enable this while protecting the wide array of established and critical satellite services and the customers that rely on them—including television services to over 100 million American homes. For more information, visit www.c-bandalliance.com