



Computer Systems Policy Project

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Topic: Sell It, Lease It, or Give It Away--How Can Spectrum Reform Best Promote Wireless Internet Deployment?

Spectrum is a critical component of our national information infrastructure, particularly for emerging wireless broadband applications. Ensuring efficient use of this resource, as detailed below, will provide significant economic benefits to American consumers and businesses. CSPP supports the following improvements to the U.S. spectrum management system:

Creation of a National Spectrum Management Policy Group (NSMPG). The Administration should establish an interagency, National Spectrum Management Policy Group (NSMPG) that determines goals for the long-term management of all spectrum and coordinates their achievement by the FCC, NTIA, and DOD, in consultation with major U.S. government users and industry. The NSMPG should issue a spectrum management plan within one year that supports global harmonization and U.S. leadership in international spectrum negotiations with foreign administrations, recognizing that the full potential of new wireless technologies cannot be achieved without enabling economies of scale and addressing overseas markets.

Speedy Implementation of 5 GHz Band Agreement for Wireless Broadband. CSPP applauds the Administration's achievement of a consensus agreement between the government and U.S. industry to make an additional 255 MHz available on a shared basis in the 5 GHz band for unlicensed high speed wireless broadband services that will support WiFi and WLAN services without harming vital DOD radars. We urge the Administration and the FCC to complete the steps required to implement this breakthrough agreement as quickly as possible, including expeditious completion of an FCC rulemaking regarding WLAN services. Rapid implementation will benefit businesses, consumers and the economy.

Appointment of a Permanent World Radiocommunication Conference Ambassador. The Administration should appoint a permanent World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) ambassador who will also have a prominent role in the NSMPG. Consistent with the NSMPG spectrum plan, the permanent ambassador will lead the promotion and negotiation of U.S. spectrum policy positions within the global arena to advance harmonization, accelerate deployment, support economies of scale and address overseas markets, enhancing U.S. leadership from year to year.

Creation of a Spectrum Reallocation Trust Fund. The Congress should continue its efforts to speedily adopt a trust fund that uses spectrum auction revenue to fund the relocation of incumbent operations or equipment upgrades for incumbent operators to more efficient technology. By directly addressing the impact on incumbent operations, this fund would improve the spectrum auction process, provide greater business certainty, and promote more rapid deployment of innovative wireless services.

Allocation of More Spectrum for Licensed and Unlicensed Commercial Wireless Services. The Administration and Congress should ensure that the growing capacity needs of both licensed and unlicensed commercial wireless services are being met going forward. Efficient government processes are critical to making spectrum available for future wireless innovations. In particular these efforts should ensure that the digital television transition stays on track so that spectrum is made available for other uses as early as possible. CSPP has recommended that the U.S. make available in the marketplace 120 MHz of spectrum by 2004, with an additional 80 MHz by 2010, harmonized with global spectrum use to the maximum extent possible. In 2002, the FCC, in coordination with the NTIA, took a first step in meeting commercial user spectrum requirements by identifying an additional 90 MHz of spectrum for advanced wireless services. The Administration and Congress should ensure that steps are taken to complete the work necessary to satisfy additional spectrum requirements through 2010.