



April 17, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentation, *Use of Spectrum Bands Above 24 GHz for Mobile Radio Services*, GN Docket No. 14-177; *IB Docket No. 15-256*; *WT Docket No. 10-112*; *IB Docket No. 97-95*; *Promoting Investment in the 3550-3700 MHz Band*, GN Docket No. 17-258; *Expanding Flexible Use in Mid-Band Spectrum Between 3.7 and 24 GHz*, GN Docket No. 17-183; *Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment*, WT Docket No. 17-79; *Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment*, WC Docket No. 17-84; *Streamlining Deployment of Small Cell Infrastructure*, WT Docket No. 16-421

Dear Ms. Dortch,

As the wireless industry presses forward with the development of the next generation of wireless, CTIA has presented to the Commission numerous reports and findings regarding the transformational nature of 5G technologies and the importance of America's leadership in their deployment. Not only will 5G drive radical improvements in how we communicate, travel, learn, and receive medical care, but it will also unlock new industries, generate billions in economic growth, and add an estimated three million new jobs across the country. In a further effort to promote the positive impact of 5G networks and technologies CTIA is pleased to submit the attached findings from Recon Analytics and Analysys Mason, as well as a summary report by CTIA, which underscore the importance of winning the race to 5G.¹

¹ See *The Global Race to 5G*, CTIA (Apr. 2018), <https://api.ctia.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Race-to-5G-Report.pdf>; *How America's 4G Leadership Propelled the U.S. Economy*, RECON ANALYTICS (Apr. 16, 2018), https://api.ctia.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Recon-Analytics_How-Americas-4G-Leadership-Propelled-US-Economy_2018.pdf; David Abecassis, Chris Nickerson and Janette Stewart, *Global Race to 5G—Spectrum and Infrastructure Plans and Priorities*, Analysys Mason (Apr. 2018), https://api.ctia.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Analysys-Mason-Global-Race-To-5G_2018.pdf.



To understand the potential impact the race to 5G may have on America's economy, Recon Analytics conducted a historical analysis of how winning and losing wireless leadership affected the economies of the U.S. and other nations. In short, Recon Analytics found that winning the race to 4G boosted America's gross domestic product by nearly \$100 billion and spurred an 84 percent increase in wireless-related jobs. America's 4G leadership likewise helped secure leading positions in key parts of the global wireless ecosystem, including the app economy—benefits that could have gone to other countries had the U.S. not let the world in 4G.

The economic and social benefits of our 4G leadership demonstrate the importance of winning the current global race to 5G and the long-term consequences that result in ceding our nation's dominate position in the wireless marketplace. In evaluating the current state of the global race to 5G, Analysys Mason studied 5G spectrum and infrastructure policies and commercial industry plans of ten countries. The results show that China, South Korea, the United States, and Japan are the lead competitors—in that order.

China's narrow lead in 5G-readiness is due to a combination of both proactive government policies and industry momentum, underscoring the urgency in action by U.S. policymakers to modernize our nation's infrastructure siting policies and ensure adequate spectrum is available for next-generation technology use. Indeed, Analysys Mason found that, by the end of 2018, the U.S. will rank sixth out of 10 countries in terms of mid-band spectrum availability—a critical input for 5G. And countries around the global are moving quickly to make 5G spectrum available at auction.

CTIA therefore applauds the Commission for scheduling the first high-band spectrum auctions, which will be critical to supporting next-generation innovations, and urges the Commission to expeditiously identify and auction additional bands for 5G use in the high-, mid-, and low-band frequencies. We also urge the Commission to build on its critical infrastructure reforms by acting this summer to provide guardrails around state and local infrastructure siting processes. Specifically, the Commission should remove barriers to accessing public rights-of-way and government-owned infrastructure, establish consistent shot clocks and effective remedies for the entire siting process, and ensure that wireless technologies can be efficiently deployed at cost-based, transparent, and non-discriminatory rates.

Such steps this year are critical at this stage if the U.S. is going to cross the 5G finish line ahead of its global competitors and retain the attendant benefits for our country. CTIA is confident that America can win and reap the significant economic benefits of 5G wireless, and we look forward to working with the Commission and policymakers across the government on the reforms needed to ensure we are 5G ready.



Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed in ECFS. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Scott K. Bergmann

Scott K. Bergmann
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs

Attachments

cc: Hon. Chairman Ajit Pai
Hon. Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Hon. Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Hon. Commissioner Brendan Carr
Hon. Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel