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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Amendment of the Commission's	)	GEN Docket No. 90-314
Rules to Establish New Personal	)	
Communications Services	)	

**UTAM REPORT TO THE FCC**

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July 1, 1998

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from any interference. To date, no incidents of microwave interference have been encountered.

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As noted in previous reports to the Commission, UTAM continues to meet the objectives established by the Commission in bringing UPCS systems to the public. Over the course of the reporting period, the processes and procedures put in place to allow the deployment of UPCS devices have continued to work well and continue to be adhered to by manufacturers of UPCS devices.<sup>2</sup> UTAM will continue to monitor these processes and procedures and make any refinements deemed necessary.

Since UTAM filed its last report with the Commission, UTAM is pleased to report that the following tasks have been accomplished:

- ▶ The UPCS market continues to grow with deployments in the first half of 1998 well ahead of the same period last year.
- ▶ By focussing on a regional clearing strategy, UTAM has nearly completed the clearing of the UPCS band for the Northeast region making a large, contiguous geographic area available for easy Zone 1 UPCS device deployment.
- ▶ In the 1920 – 1930 MHz Isochronous band, UTAM has increased the number of counties converted to Zone 1 status to 1,396 making 44% of the country available for unencumbered deployment. In the asynchronous band, 1,173 counties have been converted, making 37% available for unencumbered deployment.
- ▶ UTAM continues to convert Zone 2 counties to Zone 1 status and to incur cost sharing obligations consistent with the FCC Microwave Relocation Cost Sharing Rules.

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<sup>2</sup> Under FCC rules, parties must execute a signed Subscriber Agreement with UTAM, receive UTAM certification and obtain FCC authorization before marketing or installing a UPCS product of device. See 47 C.F.R § 15.307.

- ▶ UTAM has initiated discussions with the Microwave Relocation Clearinghouses to explore ways of sharing information that would further accelerate the clearing of the UPCS band.
- ▶ Additional member companies have begun deploying product.
- ▶ The market awareness and the realization of the benefits that UPCS devices offer has significantly increased as demonstrated by the growth in deployed devices.
- ▶ UTAM has initiated its planned annual audits of its members to insure the integrity of its UPCS product deployment reports, clearing fee payments and its Data Base Management System.

## **II. UPCS MARKET DEVELOPMENT.**

Since the allocation of the UPCS band, the deployment of UPCS devices has consistently grown at a very healthy rate. In part, this growth can be attributed to the market awareness created by the increasing number of manufacturers that have entered the market. More importantly, the growth has been fueled by the benefits that these devices have been delivering to users. End users will typically install either a small system within a department, or, try it out in one or two locations before deploying the technology on a wider basis. Invariably, the results of these trials have been overwhelmingly successful. In those systems that start out as a departmental application, they inevitably grow to a complete company deployment. Where systems are tested at a small number of sites, such as in retail outlet chain, the norm is for acceptance and deployment on a much larger scale, in many instances, a national basis.

Users have found that the productivity benefits, convenience and competitive advantages that these wireless devices offer far outweigh the cost of such systems. Many users, such as retailers and manufacturers, have found that these wireless devices have given them a competitive edge in areas such as customer service and lower operating costs. In service oriented businesses, accessibility of key personnel has proven to be a key competitive differentiator. In the health care industry, these devices have resulted in higher productivity and better patient care. In literally every industry, UPCS devices have demonstrated and proven the value that justified that allocation of the UPCS band.

Like cordless and cellular phones, UPCS devices are now becoming both commonplace and a necessity. Those end users that use them, swear by them. In many cases they wonder how they operated without them. The high growth rate of deployed devices attests to their acceptance as a way of doing business. The applications that they address, while perhaps indirectly, have encouraged both economic growth and increased job opportunities.

### **III. DEPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES**

As previously stated, UTAM is pleased to report that the procedures developed and refined to facilitate the deployment of UPCS devices continue to be effective and are being readily adhered to by manufacturers. In an ongoing effort to effectively streamline its operations and to respond to suggestions made by participating

manufacturers and others, UTAM will continue to evaluate and refine these procedures, as needed.

**A. Coordinatable Equipment Certification**

UTAM continues to fully implement the certification procedures necessary to ensure that UPCS equipment will comply with the FCC's mandated disablement requirements. By requiring that installed UPCS equipment remain in its pre-coordinated location or cease operation, the Location Verification Process and Disablement Test Suite ("LVP") ensures that equipment deployed prior to full band clearing will not cause harmful interference to microwave incumbents. To date, the lack of any interference incidents attests to the quality of the certification process and the adherence to it by the manufacturers.

Under UTAM's contract with Communications Certification Laboratory ("CCL"), an independent laboratory specializing in certification, manufacturers' UPCS equipment is tested for compliance with all applicable LVP requirements. In addition to those manufacturers currently deploying UPCS products, additional manufacturers are undergoing this certification process, indicating that a growing number of manufacturers intend to deploy products in the UPCS band.

**B. UPCS and Microwave Database Management System**

Since UTAM filed its last report with the Commission, the UTAM Database Management System (DBMS) continues to perform as designed. Members are complying with the requirements set forth in the Subscriber Agreement to update the

DBMS when products are sold and installed, which allows UTAM to monitor market development, aggregate power generation and ensure compliance with pre-designated power limits set for Zone 1 counties. In addition, UTAM members have also been using the DBMS as part of the pre-sales process to determine whether a particular customer's location is in a Zone 1 or Zone 2.

UTAM has recently initiated its annual audit of its subscriber members deployment records to ensure that UTAM's records accurately track product deployments, thereby ensuring the integrity of the DBMS. This audit is intended to ensure that the data base monitoring mechanisms are operating as intended.

### **C. Prior Coordination Notice ("PCN") Procedure**

As noted in earlier reports to the Commission, UTAM has completed the classification of counties in the United States based upon a two-zone classification system. Zone 1 counties are those counties distant from existing microwave operations which permit deployment of UPCS products up to a pre-determined and "pre-coordinated" power limit. In contrast, Zone 2 counties have existing microwave operations either nearby or in the county and, as a result, UPCS product deployments cannot occur within their boundaries until a site-specific coordination has been successfully completed.

Through the course of the first half of 1998, UTAM, through its Prime Frequency Coordinator, Comsearch, has issued a total of 86 PCNs for Zone 1 candidate counties, bringing the total number of Zone 1 counties in the 1920 - 1930 GHz Isochronous band to 1,396, or 44% of the counties in the U.S. In the 1910 - 1920 GHz Asynchronous

band, the total number of Zone 1 counties has increased from 1,105 in UTAM's last report to the Commission, to 1,173, or 37% of the counties in the U.S. A Zone 1 PCN notifies affected microwave incumbents that UTAM has declared a county to be a Zone 1 candidate and that the county will be "pre-coordinated" for a particular power level as determined in accordance with current TIA Bulletin 10 guidelines.

#### **D. Product Deployment**

Also, as in past reporting periods, product deployment continues to grow at a healthy pace. In the first half of 1998, product deployments will have grown over 150% from the same time period in 1997 and has already exceeded deployments for all of 1996. Quarter over quarter product deployments continue to demonstrate a healthy growth curve in a developing market. As chartered, UTAM will continue to coordinate the deployment of these unlicensed devices and to collect the associated clearing fees. As more fully detailed in the UTAM Plan filed with the Commission, UTAM will use these fees to finance the relocation of microwave incumbents from the spectrum allocated to UPCS.

#### **IV. RELOCATION ACTIVITIES**

The continued successful deployment of UPCS products ultimately depends on the relocation of existing microwave incumbents and the relative ease of deployment such relocation would provide. Now that the initial phase of converting "pre-coordinated" counties is complete, UTAM has begun the next phase of its clearing plan which is to clear links and trigger cost sharing obligations consistent with the FCC's rules. As

mentioned in earlier reports, UTAM has undertaken a regional clearing strategy to facilitate the conversion of these remaining Zone 2 counties. UTAM's focus will initially be in the Northeast region which will be followed by the other regions of the country. This regional approach will allow UTAM to focus its resources on a select number of links to be relocated, rather than trying to address the entire U.S. at one time. It will also open up large geographic areas of the U.S. for manufacturers to deploy products without the need for site specific frequency coordination, simplifying the sales and implementation process. In the course of this latest reporting period, UTAM has nearly completed the clearing of the Northeast region and will begin to focus on the Southeast region in the coming months. As part of this effort, UTAM has submitted Prior Coordination Notices to the Microwave Clearinghouses consistent with its obligation under the FCC Microwave Relocation Cost Sharing rules. It has also started the process of converting Zone 2 counties that have been cleared by others, to Zone 1 counties. In doing so it has initiated obligations consistent with the FCC's Microwave Relocation Cost Sharing rules.

## **V. OPERATIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL STATUS**

### **A. Operational Status**

UTAM continues to successfully use the operational procedures that it put in place to oversee the deployment of UPCS devices and coordinate deployment with incumbent microwave systems. UTAM will continue to evaluate these processes and refine them as necessary.

## **B. Membership and Staffing**

The voting membership consists of Cortelco, Comdial, CTP Systems, Executone Information Systems, Ericsson, Inc., Harris Digital Telephone Systems, Lucent Technologies, Motorola, Inc., NEC America, Nortel, Omnipoint Corporation, Siemens Business Communications Systems, Inc., SpectraLink Corporation and Tadiran Electronic Industries, Inc. In addition, UTAM also has numerous associate members<sup>3</sup>. Given the continued number of inquiries for requirements to operate in the UPCS band, UTAM is confident that additional manufacturers and distributors will become voting members with the increased levels of UPCS product deployment.

UTAM has also had a change in its Board of Trustees membership. Recently, the vacant seat on the Board has been filled by Mr. Rony Greenberg of CTP Systems.

UTAM's subcommittee structure continues to provide the Board of Trustees with additional operational support. Subcommittee membership is open to any interested party, and several member and non-member companies continue to participate actively in this regard. A list of the current UTAM subcommittees is provided in Appendix B.

## **C. Funding**

UTAM has continued to collect clearing fees from the deployment of UPCS products. The actual and forecasted growth in clearing fees resulting from increased deployments indicates that these fees, combined with UTAM's current assets, will keep UTAM in a sound financial position into the foreseeable future.

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<sup>3</sup> A complete list of UTAM Board of Trustees and Associate Members is attached as Appendix A.

## **VI. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

UTAM has continued its efforts to maintain contacts with other PCS-related industry groups in order to remain current on industry developments. UTAM continues to discuss UTAM's participation in the FCC's cost sharing process with representatives of the PCIA and ITA clearinghouses. In an attempt to accelerate the clearing process UTAM has initiated discussions with the Microwave Relocation Clearinghouses that would allow it to accelerate its clearing initiatives through the sharing of information on relocated links. This dialogue is currently in process with expectations of a positive outcome.

Through its members, UTAM also participates in other industry-wide seminars and trade shows to increase the awareness of the market for UPCS devices. In addition, UTAM continues to answer inquiries regarding its objectives and processes and provides information to interested parties as necessary.

## **VII. CONCLUSION**

UTAM is once again pleased to report that the framework that has been established for the deployment of unlicensed devices continues to work successfully. The continued growth of UPCS sales, the continued adherence by manufacturers to UTAM's operational processes and UTAM's continued efforts to prevent harmful interference to microwave incumbents indicate that UTAM is maintaining a proper course for fulfilling its overall charter. UTAM will continue to monitor and refine its

operations to meet the dynamics of the UPCS market and looks forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,

UTAM, INC.

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July 1, 1998

## APPENDIX A

### UTAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

#### VOTING MEMBERS

Comdial - Randy Berger  
Cortelco - John Harbor  
CTP Systems – Rony Greenberg \*\*  
Executone Information Systems – Ken Ulrich  
Ericsson, Inc.- Guy Campbell \*\*  
Harris Digital Telephone Systems - David Hochman  
Lucent Technologies, Inc. - Sandy Abramson (*President*) \*\*  
Motorola, Inc. - Robert Hayes \*\*  
NEC America - Paul Weismantel (*Vice-President*) \*\*  
Northern Telecom - Ron Cross (*Treasurer*) \*\*  
Omnipoint Corporation - Anna Miller  
Siemens Business Communications Systems Inc. - Peter Kozdon \*\*  
SpectraLink Corporation - Ben Guderian (*Secretary*) \*\*  
Tadiran Telecommunications Inc. - Yaron Shaul\*\*

\*\* Member of the Board of Trustees

#### UTAM ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Bell South Wireless, Inc.	Novatel
Communications Certification Laboratory	NTT America
Comsearch	P-Com Network Services
Digital Microwave Corporation	Personal Technology Services
Freepoint Telecom	Phillips Business Communications
Harris Corporation	Radio Dynamics Corp.
Industrial Telecommunications Association	Redcom Laboratories
Intel	Rockwell International
JRC Canada, Inc.	SPC Electronics
Matsushita	U.S. West
Mitel Corporation	UTC
Nitsuko America Corp.	

**UTAM SUBCOMMITTEES**

The following identifies the UTAM subcommittees and the issues over which each has oversight responsibilities. Parties interested in participating in any of the subcommittees should contact Mike Stima at (908) 526-3636.

**Certification Subcommittee.** The Certification Subcommittee is responsible for addressing issues relating to UTAM's Certification Procedures and Disablement and Location Verification Process ("LVP").

**Database Subcommittee.** The Database Subcommittee is responsible for the continued operation and enhancement of UTAM's database management system.

**Operations Subcommittee.** The Operations Subcommittee is charged with developing and executing UTAM's policies and operational procedures for microwave relocation. It also works with the Prime Frequency Coordinator on coordination activities and the development and implementation of UPCS procedures. Current tasks include considering cost sharing issues and working with the Market Subcommittee to recommend microwave link relocation priorities.

**Market Subcommittee.** The Market Subcommittee is responsible for modifications to the clearing fee collection mechanism, the prioritization of microwave links for the relocation of microwave links, and UTAM's outreach activities. It also is the forum for handling deployment-related concerns and for coordinating UTAM publicizing activities.

**Nomadic Device Evaluation Subcommittee.** The Nomadic Device Evaluation Subcommittee is responsible for reviewing issues relating to nomadic device deployment and determining the action required to facilitate early deployment of such devices.