PUBLIC NOTICE

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INCENTIVE AUCTION TASK FORCE ANNOUNCES BROADCASTER INFORMATION SESSIONS IN MID-ATLANTIC, WEST, ADDITIONAL SESSION AT NAB

GN Docket No. 12-268

As a part of the Commission's ongoing outreach effort to broadcasters regarding the upcoming incentive auction of television broadcast spectrum, the Incentive Auction Task Force will conduct information sessions in cities around the country between February and June to provide broadcasters with the opportunity to learn more about the auction and repacking process. The broadcaster information sessions follow the release of the updated information package, "Incentive Auction Opportunities for Broadcasters," prepared for the Commission by the investment banking firm Greenhill & Co.

The schedule of visits for the Mid-Atlantic and West is set forth below. The Task Force has also added a second general session in conjunction with the NAB Show. The schedule for future visits will be announced in subsequent Public Notices. Broadcasters in markets where we have not scheduled an information session are encouraged to attend the closest session. For a tentative list of the all of the markets that the Task Force is planning to visit, see http://www.fcc.gov/blog/taking-broadcaster-outreach-road.

In each city, Task Force members will hold a general session to present information and address questions on the auction and the repacking process. Members of the Task Force will also be available to meet with individual broadcasters on a confidential basis.

Broadcasters interested in attending the general session and/or scheduling a confidential meeting should email IncentiveAuctions@fcc.gov or contact Kelly Jones at 202-418-7078 prior to the applicable information session. Other questions may be directed to Mary Margaret Jackson, Legal Advisor to the Task Force, at MaryMargaret.Jackson@fcc.gov or 202-418-3641 or Julissa Marenco, Assistant Chief, Media Bureau, at Julissa.Marenco@fcc.gov or 202-418-0535.

Broadcaster Information Session Locations and Dates

- April 13-14, 2015: **Las Vegas, NV** (General sessions to be held April 13, 4:45 pm to 6:00 pm; and April 14, 12:45 pm to 2:00 pm, in conjunction with the NAB Show)
- April 21, 2015: **Richmond, VA**
- April 22, 2015: **Baltimore, MD**
- April 27, 2015: **Seattle, WA**
- April 29, 2015: **Denver, CO**

Given the educational and informational purposes of the general sessions, including the provision of information relevant to potential participation in the auction, attendance at the general sessions will be limited to broadcasters and their representatives.[1] Additionally, with the limited exception described below, attendance at a general session or individual meeting and discussions with Commission personnel at the meetings regarding such matters as how the auction will work, bid options, and opening bid prices using the methodology proposed by the Commission in the recent Comment Public Notice,[2] will not require a filing under the Commission's rules governing *ex parte* communications.[3]

Presentations to Commission personnel directed to the merits or the outcome of the matters raised in the Comment Public Notice or other pending proceedings will require the filing of an *ex parte* notice, but any broadcaster that must make such a filing need not disclose its identity.[4]

The FCC's LEARN webpage includes a wide array of information for broadcasters potentially interested in participating in the incentive auction, and broadcasters are urged to visit the webpage for further information on the incentive auction. A PDF version of the updated broadcaster information package is available here: http://wireless.fcc.gov/incentiveauctions/learn-program/Incentive_Auction_Opportunities_Book_Information_Sessions_2_13_15.pdf. A PDF version of the October 2014 version of the information package is available here: http://wireless.fcc.gov/incentiveauctions/learn-program/docs/ia-opportunities-book.pdf.

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[1] We note that the Spectrum Act imposes a duty on the Commission to keep broadcaster participation in the auction confidential. Spectrum Act § 6403(a)(3).

[2] Comment Sought on Competitive Bidding Procedures for Broadcast Incentive Auction 1000, Including Auctions *1001 and 1002*, FCC 14-191, *Public Notice*, GN Docket No. 12-268 (Dec. 17, 2014).

[3] *See* 47 C.F.R. 1.1200 *et seq*.

[4] *See* "Media Bureau Issues Limited Modification To *Ex Parte* Requirements For Broadcasters Filing Notices In The Expanding The Economic And Innovation Opportunities Of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions Proceeding," *Public Notice*, DA 14-268 (Feb. 28, 2014). If a broadcaster attends a meeting without counsel or is otherwise unable to make a filing without disclosing its identity, Commission staff will file the *ex parte* notice in order to preserve the broadcaster's anonymity.