



April 11, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
c/o Natek, Inc., Inc.  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20002

RE: WT Docket 05-63, DA 05-502: Merger of Sprint Communications, Inc. and Nextel Corporation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The University of South Florida (USF) is a major licensee and operator of Instructional Television Fixed Service - now known as Educational Broadband Service (EBS). We are writing the Federal Communications Commission today in the matter of the Sprint-Nextel merger. As licensees in the 2.5 GHz band, we urge the Commission to approve the merger without condition.

As a major education and research institution in the State of Florida, technology integration for academic instruction and inquiry has become a standard way of doing business for USF. As a part of this approach to instruction, USF serves 30,000 enrollments in more than 800 distance learning course offerings annually. Delivery formats range from instructional television to videoconferencing to web based options. The University uses 2.5 GHz EBS spectrum to transmit educational programming from its in-house 'classroom studio' production facilities. Live or pre-recorded courses, teleconferences, and meetings can be transmitted to any one of our four campus locations or to designated receive sites within the University's five-county transmission area. Although the University continues to serve a large population with this service, many of our students require more flexible course offerings to meet busy personal and work life schedules. Asynchronous, on-demand options reflect the largest enrollments in USF distance learning courses. In order to meet this growing demand and to apply USF's high quality academic standard, we believe broadband applications are a vital component to these alternative formats. It will be critical therefore, that students have access to affordable broadband Internet services.

In addition to outreach, EBS may also benefit our own campus community. USF already has an 802.11.x network providing wireless access at each USF campus. We are looking to the potential for Wi-Max applications to compliment our Local Area Networks by providing service between university campuses and off-campus centers.

In 2001, USF entered into a digital two-way EBS excess capacity lease agreement with a subsidiary of Sprint to begin to develop such possibilities. However, since that time, the education community along with its business and industry partners have had to redirect efforts from spectrum (and innovative program) development to spectrum preservation. We applaud the FCC for safeguarding education license rights and upholding the veracity of public/private partnerships under the new use rules. It is now time to let the license holders of this spectrum develop, build and implement these new possibilities.

*Educational Outreach*

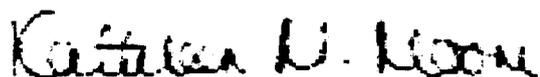
University of South Florida - 4202 East Fowler Avenue, SVC 1072 - Tampa, Florida 33620-6100  
(813) 974-7984 - FAX (813) 974-7272

Marlene H. Dortch  
April 11, 2005  
Page Two

The Commission has long sought to encourage greater development of this spectrum, both for educational and broadband services. The merger of Sprint and Nextel will bring together licenses under a nationwide footprint, allowing the combined company to develop and bring to market a robust wireless broadband service that not only provides a competitive alternative to cable modem or DSL service; but also is capable of unique interactive multimedia applications that will better serve educational uses.

We believe that this merger will bring together the right assets and resources to accelerate the development of the 2.5 GHz spectrum. In addition, given Sprint and Nextel's histories as leaders in technology development, we have no doubt that such development will only support the educational mission of the University of South Florida and its EBS offerings. For that reason, we urge the FCC to approve the merger under consideration in the aforementioned docket, and to consider these comments in the proceeding.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen M. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kathleen M. Moore  
Associate Vice President  
Academic Affairs and Educational Outreach