

Clarendon Foundation
4201 31st Street South, Suite 926
Arlington, VA 22206-2187
(703) 598-7265

April 18, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW, TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 05-63, Application for the Transfer of Control of
Licenses and Authorizations of Nextel Communications, Inc. and
Sprint Corporation
Ex Parte Comment from Clarendon Foundation (EBS Licensee)

Clarendon Foundation is commenting to express its support for the proposed merger of Sprint Corporation and Nextel Communications, Inc. Clarendon has agreed to lease the excess capacity airtime on its Educational Broadband Service ("EBS") channels in several markets to Sprint. The Foundation has been working with Sprint for the past five years.

Clarendon Foundation enthusiastically supports the proposal of the two companies upon merger to develop and deploy wireless interactive multimedia services ("WIMS") on its leased EBS spectrum. This innovative service would be data-centric and focus on stationary and portable consumer electronic and computing-oriented devices and hardware. It would enable subscribers, including EBS receive site schools, to interact with high-bandwidth applications through visual-centric services, such as online multimedia presentations, video-on-demand, video email, and document collaboration.

Clarendon Foundation has assumed a mission of providing free wireless broadband services to private and parochial schools and colleges. These institutions have many unfulfilled needs for Information Technology services. The new capabilities to be offered by WIMS would make it an ideal platform for "blended learning" – a combination of educational activities in the classroom and individualized Internet instruction – that would be of great value to the underserved institutions in the educational community. Media rich applications, such as WIMS, are needed in order to effectively reach the individual students of today, who have grown up with television and a variety of multimedia devices.

Clarendon Foundation is also hopeful that this high capacity wireless service will have the capability to "multicast" compressed video programming, as this would simplify market transition. It would also present the opportunity to operate all of the EBS and BRS channels in the market on low power, two way digital transmission facilities, thereby making it possible to maximize the utility and value of the spectrum.

Clarendon Foundation is convinced that major telecommunications companies, such as a Sprint-Nextel, will have the necessary combined resources to *at long last* deploy low power, two way digital wireless broadband services on non-line-of-sight cellular systems. This model is the result of years of testing, trials, and evaluation, which Clarendon Foundation anticipates, with the support of the Commission, will produce a commercially viable service, which will provide exciting new capabilities to the educational community.

Yours truly,

Kemp R. Harshman
President