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Via Electronic Filing

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket Nos. 96-86, 06-150 and 06-169
Ex Parte Notice

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 23, 2007, Andrew Rein on behalf of Access Spectrum, L.L.C., Stacy Fuller on behalf of the DIRECTV Group, Inc., Linda Kinney, on behalf of EchoStar Satellite, L.L.C., and Christopher Libertelli on behalf of Skype, Inc., on behalf of The Coalition for 4G in America, which also includes Google Inc., Intel Corporation, and Yahoo! Inc., met with Angela Giancarlo, Legal Advisor to Commissioner McDowell. Access Spectrum, DIRECTV, EchoStar and Skype urged the Commission to take action in the above-referenced dockets consistent with the five principles described in the attached documents, which were discussed during the course of the meeting.

Pursuant to the Commission's rules, this letter is being submitted for inclusion in the public record in the above-referenced proceedings.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ruth Milkman
Ruth Milkman

Attachments

cc: Angela Giancarlo

**The Coalition for 4G in America –
Optimizing the 700 MHz Band for Next Generation Technologies and Networks**

The undersigned companies urge the Commission to take action in WT Docket Nos. 96-86, 06-169, and 06-150 consistent with the principles described below:

Primary principle:

(1) The Congressionally-mandated DTV transition must remain on track. Any modifications to the FCC's rules (as outlined below) must not violate the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 ("DTV Act"), which establishes February 17, 2009 as the hard date for the DTV transition and January 28, 2008 as the deadline for the auction of the 60 MHz of commercial spectrum in the 700 MHz band.

Secondary principles (which are contingent on not violating the primary principle):

(1) The Broadband Optimization Plan ("BOP") should be adopted promptly. Prompt action by the Commission would ensure compliance with the statutory deadlines in the DTV Act, and would allow both public safety and commercial entities to begin to plan now for systems to be deployed based on BOP upon completion of the DTV transition. Adoption of BOP also would enable more flexible choice of broadband technologies in the spectrum allocated to public safety. BOP should be adopted immediately.

(2) The 15 MHz paired commercial allocation in the Upper 700 MHz Band should be re-configured into a 16.5 MHz paired allocation. This should be partitioned into one 11 MHz pair and one 5.5 MHz pair to preserve similarity to the plan of record. The use of 5.5 MHz "building blocks" gives an immediate 10% increase in bandwidth compared to 5 MHz blocks. This allows more capable next generation broadband network performance, going into the auction. The 11 MHz and 5.5 MHz pairs allow greater flexibility in technology implementation and business plans. Locating the paired 5.5 MHz commercial block directly adjacent to public safety's paired 5.5 MHz broadband block would better enable public-private partnerships and lead to potential cost savings for public safety.

(3) Package bidding should be used in the Upper and Lower 700 MHz band. In the Upper 700 MHz band, if package bidding is used, then the paired 11 MHz block should be licensed in REAGs and the paired 5.5 MHz block should be licensed in MEAs. The use of package bidding and the proposed licensing scheme facilitates more efficient geographic and bandwidth aggregation, such that bidders could easily sum to REAGs, or nationwide licenses. In addition, the use of package bidding and this licensing scheme would promote new entry by permitting flexible business plans and preventing a company from blocking nationwide entry simply by acquiring one regional license.

(4) Two-sided auctions should be utilized. The use of two-sided auctions would enable the aggregation of the upper 700 MHz commercial blocks in a single, more efficient auction.

Coalition for 4G in America

- Re-configuring the public safety allocation – The Broadband Optimization Plan

Public Safety								Public Safety							
C	D	A	BB	GB	NB	NB	GB	C	D	A	BB	GB	NB	NB	GB
5 MHz	10 MHz	1.5	5.5 MHz	1	3	3	1	5 MHz	10 MHz	1.5	5.5 MHz	1	3	3	1
60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69						

- Re-configuring the commercial allocation – The “4G in America” Plan

Commercial				Public Safety				Commercial				Public Safety			
D	C	BB	GB	NB	NB	GB	D	C	BB	GB	NB	NB	GB		
11 MHz	5.5 MHz	5.5 MHz	1	3	3	1	11 MHz	5.5 MHz	5.5 MHz	1	3	3	1		
60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69						

- Geographic areas

D Block (11 MHz)

12 REAGs (6 CONUS Regions)

C Block (5.5 MHz)

52 MEAs