

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Applications of Sprint Nextel Corp. and)	
Clearwire Corporation for Consent to)	WT Docket No. 08-94
Transfer Control of Licenses and)	
Authorizations)	
)	

Comments of Illinois Institute of Technology

Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) hereby files these comments in support of the above-referenced transfer applications. By granting these applications, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will help stimulate the development of new technologies and the deployment of services in the 2.5 gigahertz band, which in turn will promote greater opportunities for educational licensees in the band.

IIT holds the authorization for Educational Broadband Service (EBS) stations WHG269 and WBM648, which operate on the E and G Channel Groups in Chicago, Illinois. This station is an important part of IIT's educational mission. IIT, which has over 6,000 students, was founded to advance knowledge through research and scholarship, to cultivate invention improving the human condition, and to educate students for a life of professional achievement, service to society, and individual fulfillment. In particular, the university has worked closely with the City of Chicago and is a member of the Chicago Digital Excellence Team.

IIT has entered into an agreement under which it is leasing excess capacity on WHG269 and WBM649 to a Sprint Nextel Corporation (Sprint Nextel) for use in providing commercial wireless broadband service to the Chicago area.

In this proceeding, the FCC is considering license transfer applications filed by Sprint Nextel and Clearwire Corporation (collectively, the Applicants). In their public interest statement, the Applicants state that they propose to combine their Broadband Radio Service (BRS) licenses and EBS lease rights into a new company that will be called New Clearwire. The Applicants describe a number of public interest benefits that will result from the creation of New Clearwire. They state that New Clearwire will be able to construct a new broadband network using WiMAX technology throughout the country. According to the Applicants, this new broadband network will give consumers new, innovative services.

IIT agrees with the Applicants that the proposed license transfers will serve the public interest and should be approved. New Clearwire's WiMAX network will provide fast, mobile Internet access and stimulate innovation in end-user devices and applications in the Chicago area and throughout the U.S. IIT will benefit from this new, advanced network because it will enable higher quality and more reliable communication services in support of our mobile faculty and students.

In their public interest statement (pages 34-25), the Applicants state that

The proposed Transaction will enable New Clearwire to gain the financing and economies of scale necessary to create a viable new broadband competitor which in turn will make the new company a stronger lessee to its EBS lessors. EBS licensees will have a lessee with a stronger financial footing for deployment of services

over the 2.5 GHz band and will be able to take advantage of the faster and more comprehensive build-out of their facilities.

IIT believes these benefits weigh heavily in favor of FCC approval of the proposed transaction. EBS licensees need a viable commercial partner capable of deploying new technologies and being a strong partner with the EBS community. The New Clearwire transaction promises to fill this need. The Commission should approve the above-referenced transfer applications as soon as possible so these public interest benefits can be achieved.

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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