

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition,	)	
Petition to Amend Part 101 of the	)	RM-11610
Commission's Rules for Automated	)	
Government Frequency Coordination and	)	
Conditional Licensing in the 23 GHz Fixed	)	
Service Band	)	
	)	

To: Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission

**COMMENTS OF COMSEARCH**

Pursuant to Section 1.405 (a) of the Commission's Rules, Comsearch hereby respectfully submits these comments in full support of the above captioned Petition for Rulemaking filed by the Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition (FWCC).<sup>1</sup>

Comsearch is a leading provider of spectrum management and wireless engineering products and services to the commercial and federal market. Since 1977, we have been actively engaged with the Federal Communications Commission (Commission), the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) and various industry groups and standards organizations to develop rules, industry recommendations, and standards that promote the efficient use of the radio spectrum. Comsearch is also an FCC-appointed database manager for the 70/80/90 GHz Service. Our experience providing frequency

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<sup>1</sup> *Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition, Petition to Amend Part 101 of the Commission's Rules for Automated Government Frequency Coordination and Conditional Licensing in the 23 GHz Fixed Service Band*, RM11610, July 26, 2010 (FWCC Petition).

coordination services for fixed point-to point systems and satellite service earth stations is particularly relevant to this proceeding.

Our data that FWCC submitted in the rulemaking petition<sup>2</sup> show that there is an increasing demand for 23 GHz microwave links and that access to channels under conditional authorization is highly popular. The petition correctly asserts that several factors contribute to the attractiveness of the 23 GHz for backhaul:<sup>3</sup>

- The requirement to coordinate with satellite earth stations in the 4 and 6 GHz bands,
- The relatively small size of the 10 GHz band,
- The potential for the 11 GHz bands to see increased usage due to the relaxation on antenna size,
- The lack of remaining 18 GHz spectrum for microwave because of re-allocation to satellite,
- The ideal propagation characteristics of the 23 GHz band to support short-haul, high-density cell site backhaul, and
- The ability of low-profile 23 GHz antennas to meet zoning requirements.

However, as indicated in the FWCC Petition, the 23 GHz band is shared with federal Government users and requires coordination with the NTIA through the Commission. The Commission and NTIA allow conditional authorization, but only on six channel pairs, and only at power levels at or below 55 dBm EIRP. Conditional authorization is not permitted in the remainder of the 23 GHz band, so accessing these other channels requires approval through NTIA, Commission processing, and grant of the license before operation is permitted. These restrictions introduce complications and delays that would be rendered

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<sup>2</sup> FWCC Petition at pp 7-8.

<sup>3</sup> *Id* at pp 4-5.

unnecessary if an acceptable method to protect government users via up-front coordination could be introduced. Accordingly we fully support the FWCC petition for a rulemaking proceeding to allow for conditional authorization based on prior coordination across the entire 23 GHz band.

The FWCC Petition suggests this can be easily accomplished through a process similar to that presently used in the 70/80/90 GHz bands to facilitate sharing between non-Government point-to-point systems and Government services.<sup>4</sup> As Comsearch is an FCC-appointed database manager for the 70/80/90 GHz Service, we strongly believe the process in place to support the 70/80/90 GHz Service can be easily modified to accommodate the 23 GHz band. Indeed, the Commission stated in the introductory paragraph of 70/80/90 GHz Service Order:

“By this action , we (1) provide a flexible and streamlined regulatory framework that will encourage innovative uses of the spectrum; (2) accommodate potential future developments in technology and equipment; (3) promote competition in the communications services, equipment and related markets; and (4) advance potential spectrum sharing between non-Federal Government and Federal Government systems.”<sup>5</sup>

We believe these same goals can be accomplished by applying the 70/80/90 GHz process to the 23 GHz band.

The NTIA already has the necessary procedures in place to accommodate secure data transfer, perform the necessary analyses (albeit at higher frequencies), and issue the appropriate “yellow light” or “green light”. Thus, applying the 70/80/90 GHz process to the

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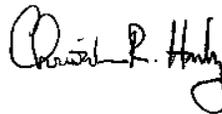
<sup>4</sup> *Id* at pp 9-10.

<sup>5</sup> See *Allocations and Service Rules for the 71-76 GHz, 81-86 GHz and 92-95 GHz Bands*, WT Docket No. 02-146, 18 FCC Rcd 23318 (2003), at ¶ 1.

23 GHz band should be straightforward, and would effectively streamline, simplify and quicken 23 GHz licensing.

Granting the FWCC Petition would address the National Broadband Plan mandates to “...revise the Commission’s rules to allow for greater flexibility and cost-effectiveness in deploying wireless backhaul”<sup>6</sup>, and “...spur further development and deployment of opportunistic uses across more radio spectrum.”<sup>7</sup> Our experience in coordinating 23 GHz frequencies convinces us that the FCC should take action to improve access to the segments of the band that are underutilized. We are keenly aware that adopting a more effective process such as the 70/80/90 GHz licensing would unleash the untapped potential of the 23 GHz spectrum. Thus we strongly urge the Commission to grant the FWCC Petition for Rulemaking in its entirety.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Date: October 12, 2010

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<sup>6</sup> *Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan* (released March 16, 2010), Recommendation 5.10.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*, Recommendation 5.13.