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February 8, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Notice:

Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Provide Spectrum for the Operation of Medical Body Area Networks, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, ET Docket No. 08-59.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) expresses its strong support for the proposal submitted on January 14, 2011, by the Aerospace & Flight Test Radio Coordinating Council (AFTRCC), Philips Healthcare (Philips) and GE Healthcare (GE) in the above-captioned proceeding. Upon review, TIA agrees that this plan will, with effective protections against interference, facilitate sharing of the 2360 - 2390 MHz band between aeronautical mobile telemetry ("AMT") operations on a primary basis and medical body area network services ("MBANS") on a secondary basis in healthcare facilities, and allow for efficient use of the 2390-2400 MHz by MBANS devices on a secondary basis.[1]

As noted in TIA's Comments on the MBANS NPRM, the technologically-sound deployment and use of MBANS can provide expert health care in rural regions that do not currently have access to cutting-edge medical practices.[2] Further, the use of MBANS will spur investment in future innovative wireless health information technology that will speed diagnosis, improve preventative medical care, and alert providers on a real-time basis of a patient's medical condition.[3] With the proper technical framework, MBANS can save lives, decrease health care costs, spur innovation, and create jobs.

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[1] *See* Letter from William K. Keane, Counsel to AFTRCC, David R. Siddall, Counsel to Philips and Ari Q. Fitzgerald, Counsel to GE, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, ET Docket No. 08-59 (filed Jan. 14, 2011).

[2] Comments of Telecommunications Industry Association, ET Docket No. 08-59 (Oct. 5, 2009) *at* 2.

[3] *Id.*

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TIA greatly appreciates the efforts of the AFTRCC, Philips, and GE in their ongoing efforts to address key interference concerns with regard to MBANS operations in the 2360-2390 MHz and 2390-2400 MHz bands, including those, previously noted by TIA, related to vital aeronautical testing that ensures the safety of aircraft.[4] The multi-industry agreement detailed in their proposal will protect primary AMT users and give certainty to secondary MBANS users in terms of spectrum access.

By utilizing propagation analyses, registration of health care facilities with a spectrum coordinator, mandatory transition plans of healthcare facilities and effective interference protection standards, AMT and MBANS will be able to share the 2360-2390 MHz band. Additionally, MBANS use on a secondary basis of the 2390-2400 MHz band will further enable the deployment of innovative mHealth technologies, applications, and devices while protecting primary users.

As part of the same proceeding, TIA has urged the Commission to ensure that authorization of MBANS use in the 2400-2483.5 MHz band does not put MBANS on a level of regulatory preference above unlicensed devices. As the use of this band by unlicensed devices is a critical component of the future investment in and deployment of innovative wireless devices TIA requests that the Commission move forward expeditiously with the current proposal for the 2360-2400 MHz band, and continue to examine the 2400-2483.5MHz band for the most efficient regime to ensure that unlicensed devices in this band -- such as Bluetooth, Zigbee, and WLAN – are used in health care settings to their maximum potential.[5]

TIA again lauds the Commission and key stakeholders in striving to find methods to ensure ongoing operations of AMT and the simultaneous provision of spectrum access for MBANS. Accordingly, TIA urges the Commission to adopt the plan developed by AFTRCC, Philips, and GE.

TIA appreciates the Commission's consideration, and offers further support in ensuring that MBANS technology can be further developed and deployed.

Sincerely,

_____/S/_____

Danielle Coffey
Vice President
Government Affairs

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[4] *Id*. at 3-4.

[5] *Id*. at 4-5.