

The recent proposal of Verizon Wireless to sell reallocated broadcast TV spectrum involves airwaves in the largest urban markets in America that it purchased more than four years ago. The fact that it has warehoused this 'beachfront property' raises the fundamental question of whether a spectrum shortage actually exists. Rather than simply take at face value the specious claims of wireless broadband providers, policymakers should heed the words of [Martin Cooper](#), the inventor of the cell phone, who disputes the notion of large wireless carriers of a spectrum crisis. Some scientists and engineers think big wireless carriers are just trying to protect their businesses from competition.

Mr. Cooper who serves on a technical advisory board to the F.C.C. has reason to believe there are technological solutions to the so called spectrum crisis that don't require large wireless carriers to acquire more spectrum. Every time a problem has developed in acquiring and using spectrum in the last 100 years new technologies have developed to make it easier to do so. He explained that for carriers, buying spectrum is the easiest way for them to expand their network, but newer technologies, like improved antennas and techniques for offloading mobile traffic to Wi-Fi networks, could multiply the number of mobile devices that carriers can serve by at least tenfold.

Reference: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/18/technology/mobile-carriers-warn-of-spectrum-crisis-others-see-hyperbole.html?_r=1