

AT&T's proposals still face review by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), but assuming the deals go through, they would boost spectrum holdings by 62% in the biggest 100 U.S. markets. The notable deals in the proposal include a \$600 million purchase of NextWave Wireless, an arrangement with Sirius XM Radio Inc. (NASDAQ:SIRI) to utilize satellite signals, and a radio-wave deal with Comcast Corporation (NASDAQ:CMCSA) and Horizon Wi-Com LLC.

Analysts have estimated that AT&T will bid about \$2 billion for airwaves that Verizon Communications Inc (NYSE:VZ) is also interested in. The bid for Verizon's airwaves will be AT&T's second attempt to fill in the gaps in the company's spectrum holdings, the first being the company's attempted \$39 billion takeover of T-Mobile that was opposed by regulators. AT&T fell back in the spectrum race in 2006 when they were pursuing the acquisition of T-Mobile. While AT&T was focused on the acquisitions, Verizon was purchasing cable airwaves from cable companies that abandoned their plans to build a high-speed wireless network to compete with Verizon and AT&T.

Many believe that AT&T and Verizon are becoming a national duopoly. Concerns were voiced to the FCC by competitors, stating that AT&T's proposal will weaken competition and increase the slope on the uphill battle. AT&T's purchases, along with Verizon Communications success acquiring cable spectrum, will prevent small and rural carriers from having access to airwaves.