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I have spent many years working in "emerging markets," and have difficulty recalling a more mis-managed and blatantly biased public tender process. This one presents a notable combination of procedural violations (including waiving a tender deadline to accommodate Telecordia) and ignoring substantive requirements (including the neutrality requirements excluding hardware providers). If the FCC proceeds to select Telecordia in the circumstances, a legal challenge to the decision should be quite straightforward, but not sufficient. The circumstances create a strong basis to suspect culpable misconduct by public officials. Public trust in the FCC would require an investigation of this by appropriate authorities.