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DoD 3450-3550 MHz Information Session
July 12, 2021

Department of Defense
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

Welcome to the information session! Up front, I want to thank AIA for hosting. My name is Vernita D. Harris, and I am the Director of Spectrum Policy and Programs (or for short SPP) in the DOD's CIO office.

Allow me to take a brief moment to tell you about SPP. We serve as the DOD *Sherpa* for advancing the Department's spectrum, Internet, and information and telecommunication policy. We leverage a team of diverse cross-functional experts to navigate an increasingly complex global landscape in pursuit of the Department's spectrum interests across the executive and legislative branches, the international community, and industry.

Working collaboratively with NTIA and FCC, we developed this information session to provide potential bidders in the upcoming FCC Auction with additional material on DoD operations and testing in the 3450-3550 MHz band. Last summer, DoD worked closely with the White House to develop the framework to share this band to enable higher capacity 5G networks. I might add this was all done on an extremely expedited timeline and leveraged expertise across DoD and the Federal Government. I will talk about this a little more in a moment.

Specifically, our information session today will focus on providing insight on DoD's uses in the Cooperative Planning Areas and Periodic Use Areas in the 3.45 GHz band, including the FACT sites. My team will kick things off with an overview of the systems operating in these frequencies in these two coordination zones, and testing at FACT sites within the zones. Next, we will open it up for a "facilitated" question session. We will take your questions and provide written responses via a public forum for all potential bidders to access. DoD plans to make the 3.45 information session presentation publically available. DOD is committed to maximizing this opportunity to make additional spectrum available for 5G and, with your participation, help make the auction a great success.

I understand your desire and need for additional information. However, when national security systems are involved, releasing information must be done with extreme care. We often hear comparisons to the AWS-3 auction. I wanted to point out a significant difference between the AWS-3 spectrum and this spectrum band. In the AWS-3 auctioned bands, DOD predominantly operates unclassified systems; in contrast, DOD systems and operations in this band are much more sensitive, and thus access to operational information is restricted and controlled. However, we are committed to share as much as we can here and through the Q&A process, so you can plan your auction participation accordingly.

As I alluded to earlier, the timeline for getting this auction underway was unusually and extremely compressed. It was as if we were in a classic '80s movie montage but without the benefits of Hollywood magic. Filmmakers use montages to compress something that would take weeks into a matter of minutes. Normally, after NTIA and FCC agree to reallocate a federally utilized band, law requires an 18–24-month period of analysis. Due to the policy urgency of national 5G priorities, this process was truncated to a fraction of this time.

Just to give you an idea of the scale and scope of our efforts, last summer, DoD established a working group that brought together over 180 subject matter experts with ship, airborne, ground, electronic warfare, test and training expertise from Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, the office of the Secretary of Defense, and the White House. Leveraging prior studies, the working group developed a framework to support this auction after a 15-week sprint.

Additionally, Congress mandated by statute that the FCC hold the auction by the end of this year, further limiting the window of opportunity for DoD and industry to coordinate fully. As a result, the initial post AMBIT work undertaken last summer was only a preliminary engineering analysis; more rigorous analysis will be completed as part of the cooperative planning process with industry.

In spite of these initial obstacles, the 3.45 GHz auction is a go, and it holds great promise; we are very supportive and look forward to continuing our partnership across the executive and legislative branches, and across industries.

In a perfect world, both industry and the government are afforded the traditional periods to coordinate and collaborate ahead of spectrum reallocation decisions. Looking ahead to potential future decisions regarding the lower 3 GHz band, having ample time to collaborate will be all the more critical. We **cannot** do another montage.

The DOD is committed to sharing spectrum bands, wherever possible, for the furtherment of our national interests. Federal policymakers have made unprecedented amount of spectrum available for the wireless industry across radiofrequency ranges in large contiguous blocks for 5G and future broadband technologies. I recognize the importance of U.S. leadership in this space to the Nation's economic prosperity, and that 5G and beyond technologies mark a critical pivot for spectrum policy, technology innovation, and national security. We continue to look to industry to develop novel technologies and methods to maximize spectrum use for both economic and national security interests. I am proud of our partnership for the betterment of the United States, and look forward to a productive session today!

Finally, I want to thank the following members of my team as they have been working tirelessly behind the scenes and they are MI, Jay Chauhan, Mary Grezyn, Tanin Izadi, Charlie Mason, Lynna McGrath, and Tomasz Wojtaszek.

I now invite Charles Cooper, Associate Administrator, Office of Spectrum Management, NTIA to say a few remarks.