



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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DA 00-508
March 6, 2000

929 AND 931 MHz PAGING AUCTION CLOSES

Winning Bidders of 985 Licenses Announced

Down Payments Due March 20, 2000
FCC Forms 601 and 602 Due March 20, 2000

Ten-Day Petition to Deny Period

Report No. AUC-26-F (Auction No. 26)

On March 2, 2000, the Federal Communications Commission completed the auction of 2,499 licenses in the 929 and 931 MHz Paging service, raising (in net high bids) a total of \$4,122,500 for the U.S. Treasury. 78 winning bidders won a total of 985 licenses in this auction.

This public notice provides detailed information concerning winning bidders, down payments, bid withdrawal payments and/or deposits, FCC Forms 601 and 602 filing requirements, requests for rule waivers, and licensing matters. Key information appears in the following attachments:

- Attachment A:** "Round Results, High Bids" lists winning bidders and both the gross and net high winning bid amounts.
- Attachment B:** "Bidder Payment/Refund Report" lists down payments and any withdrawn bid payments owed by winning bidders.

- Attachment C:** “Withdrawal/Payment Report” lists withdrawn bid payments owed by all bidders.
- Attachment D:** “Instructions for Completing FCC Form 601” provides detailed information about how a winning bidder should complete the required FCC Form 601 for 929 and 931 MHz Paging license applications.
- Attachment E:** “Instructions for Using ULS to Register TIN and Call Signs With FCC and File FCC Form 601 Electronically.”
- Attachment F:** “Accessing the FCC Network using Windows 95/98 for Universal Licensing System filing.”

A copy of this public notice will be sent via overnight mail to each winning bidder.

Down payments. The Commission's rules require that within ten business days after the release of this public notice, in this case **by 6:00 p.m. ET on March 20, 2000**, winning bidders in Auction No. 26 must have on deposit with Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, enough funds to cover all required: (1) down payments on winning bids, and (2) payments for withdrawn bids, if applicable. If a bidder's upfront payment is not sufficient to meet both of these requirements, the bidder must deposit additional funds. *See* 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.2107(b), 1.2104(g).¹

The amount now due from each bidder, if any, is set out in the last column of **Attachment B**. *Note that only if a bidder's upfront payment covers the required total of down payments and withdrawn bid payments (as reflected in Attachment B) is no payment or FCC Form 159 necessary at this time.* Each bidder's down payment must be a total of twenty (20) percent of its net winning bid(s) plus any withdrawal payments.

Final payments. After the termination of the licensing pleading cycle (*see* 47 C.F.R. § 1.2108), the Commission will issue a public notice announcing that it is prepared to grant the licenses. Within ten business days after the date of that public notice, winning bidders will be required to make full payment of the balance of their winning bids. *See* 47 C.F.R. §§1.2109 and 1.2107(b). Licenses will be granted only after final payment is made.

Method of payment. All payments must be in U.S. dollars and made in the form of a wire transfer. No personal checks, credit card payments, or other forms of payment will be accepted. All payments must be accompanied by a completed FCC Remittance Advice Form

¹ In the event a bidder has withdrawn a bid(s) and is subject to a bid withdrawal payment(s), the bidder's upfront payment will be first applied to satisfy the withdrawal payment(s) before being applied toward its down payment.

(FCC Form 159).² A partially completed copy of the FCC Form 159 will be sent to each winning bidder within three (3) business days following release of this public notice to facilitate submission of the correct down payment. Winning bidders that have not received the partially completed FCC Form 159 by that date should contact Gail Glasser or Michelle Bennett at 202-418-1995. **However, winning bidders are ultimately responsible for the verification and submission of the correct down payment.**

Wire transfer payments must be **received** by Mellon Bank by **6:00 p.m. ET, on March 20, 2000**. Bidders should coordinate with their bankers ahead of time regarding their wire transfers, and allow sufficient time for the wire transfer to be **initiated and completed prior to the deadline**. To submit funds by wire transfer, bidders will need the following information:

ABA Routing Number: 043000261
Receiving Bank: Mellon Pittsburgh
BNF: 911-6106
OBI Field: (Skip one space between each information item) "AUCTIONPAY"
TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NO. (same as FCC Form 159, Block 26)
PAYMENT TYPE CODE (enter "A26D")
FCC CODE 1 (same as FCC Form 159, Block 23A: "26")
PAYOR NAME (same as FCC Form 159, Block 2)
LOCKBOX NO.: 358850

Bidders must fax a completed FCC Form 159 to Mellon Bank at 412-209-6045 or 412-236-5702 at least one hour before placing the order for the wire transfer (but on the same business day).

Proper completion of the **FCC Form 159** is critical to ensuring correct credit of bidder deposits. **Bidders must use the same Taxpayer Identification Number used on their FCC Form 175.**³ Questions concerning the calculation and submission of down payments should be directed to Gail Glasser at 202-418-1995.

Withdrawal, default and disqualification payments. The Commission imposes payments on bidders that withdraw high bids during the course of an auction, or that default on payments due after an auction closes, or that are disqualified. *See* 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.2104(g), 1.2109, 22.207.

1. Bid Withdrawal Payments. A bidder (Bidder X) that withdraws a high bid during the course of an auction is subject to a bid withdrawal payment equal to the difference between the amount withdrawn and the amount of the subsequent winning bid. If a high bid is withdrawn on

² Copies of the FCC Form 159 may be obtained by calling the Commission's Forms Distribution Center at 1-800-418-3676 (outside Washington, D.C.) or 202-418-3676 (in the Washington area). Copies of the FCC Form 159 can also be obtained via the Internet (<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>) or by Fax-On-Demand (202-418-2830).

³ If, subsequent to final submission of its FCC Form 175, a bidder has provided the Commission with a written correction of its Taxpayer Identification Number, the bidder should use the corrected number.

a license that remains unsold at the close of the auction, Bidder X will be required to make an interim payment equal to three (3) percent of the net amount of the withdrawn bid.⁴ This payment amount is deducted from any upfront payments or down payments that Bidder X has deposited with the Commission. If, in a subsequent auction, that license receives a valid bid in an amount equal to or greater than the withdrawn bid amount, then no final bid withdrawal payment will be assessed, and Bidder X may request a refund of the interim three (3) percent payment. If, in a subsequent auction, the selling price for that license is less than Bidder X's withdrawn bid amount, then Bidder X will be required to make a final bid withdrawal payment equal to either the difference between Bidder X's net withdrawn bid and the subsequent net winning bid, or the difference between Bidder X's gross withdrawn bid and the subsequent gross winning bid, whichever is less.

Attachment C identifies bidders that owe withdrawal payments to the Commission as a result of bid withdrawals made in Auction No. 26.

2. *Bid Default/Disqualification Payments.* If a high bidder defaults or is disqualified after the close of the auction, the defaulting bidder will be subject to the same bid withdrawal payment obligations as described above, plus an additional payment equal to three (3) percent of the subsequent winning bid or three (3) percent of the defaulted bid, whichever is less. Where a bidding credit applies to the winning bid in either the original or the subsequent auction, the calculation of the three percent payment is based on the smaller of the two gross bids or smaller of the two net bids, whichever basis (gross or net) was used to figure the first component. Thus, if the difference between the gross bids is less than the difference between the net bids, the three percent payment will be computed on the lower of the gross bids. If the difference between the net bids is less than or equal to the difference between the gross bids, the three percent payment will be computed on the lower of the net bids. However, if the differences between both the gross bids and the net bids are less than or equal to zero, the three percent payment will be computed on the lower of the net bids.

If a winning bidder fails to remit the required down payment within ten (10) business days after the Commission has released this Public Notice, in this case March 20, 2000, the bidder will be deemed to have defaulted, its application will be dismissed, and it will be liable for a default payment as described above. In such event, the Commission, at its discretion, may either auction the spectrum to existing or new applicants, or offer it to the other highest bidders (in descending order) at their final bids. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.2109(b).

If a winning bidder fails to pay the balance of its winning bids in a lump sum by the applicable deadline as specified by the Commission, it will be allowed to make payment within ten (10) business days after the payment deadline provided that it also pays a late fee equal to

⁴ *See* Implementation of Section 309(j) of the Communications Act – Competitive Bidding, PP Docket No. 93-253, Fifth Report and Order, 9 FCC Rcd 5532, 5563 n.51 (1994); “Phase II 220 MHz Service Auction Closes, Winning Bidders in the Auction of 908 Phase II 220 MHz Service Licenses,” *Public Notice*, 14 FCC Rcd 605 (1999).

five (5) percent of the amount due. When a winning bidder fails to pay the balance of its winning bid plus late fee by the late payment deadline, it is considered to be in default on its license(s) and subject to the applicable default payments. Licenses will be awarded upon the full and timely payment of winning bids and any applicable late fees. *See* 47 C.F.R. §1.2109(a). A winning bidder that is found unqualified to be a licensee, fails to remit the balance of its winning bid in a timely manner, or defaults or is disqualified for any reason after having made the required down payment, will be deemed to have defaulted and will be liable for the payment set forth in Section 1.2104(g)(2). In such event, the Commission may either auction the spectrum to existing or new applicants or offer it to the other highest bidders (in descending order) at their final bids. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.2109(c).

Finally, bidders that are found to have violated the antitrust laws or the Commission's rules in connection with their participation in the competitive bidding process may be subject, in addition to any other applicable sanctions, to forfeiture of their upfront payment, down payment, or full bid amount, and may be prohibited from participating in future auctions. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.2109(d).

Refund of excess upfront payments (for winning bidders). Upfront monies on deposit that are in excess of the required down payment, withdrawal and/or default payment amounts will be refunded to the payor of record promptly upon receipt of the necessary wire transfer instructions. Winning bidders must fax the necessary wire transfer instructions to Gail Glasser at 202-418-2843. Any questions concerning refunds should be referred to Gail Glasser or Michelle Bennett at 202-418-1995.

Refund of upfront payments (for non-winning bidders). Non-winning bidders must fax the necessary wire transfer instructions to Gail Glasser at 202-418-2843. Any questions concerning refunds for non-winning bidders should be referred to Gail Glasser or Michelle Bennett at 202-418-1995.

FCC FORM 601

By **5:30 p.m. ET on March 20, 2000**, winning bidders must submit completed long-form license application(s) covering each license for which they were the winning high bidder. **Attachment D** sets out instructions for completing the FCC Form 601. Applications must be filed electronically. Detailed instructions for filing the Form 601 electronically are set out in **Attachment E**.

Failure to timely file FCC Form 601 will result in default. Late-filed applications will not be accepted without a showing of good cause.⁵

⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 1.2107(c).

FCC FORM 602

Pursuant to Section 1.919 of the Commission's rules, an applicant for a license in an auctionable service must have on file with the Commission a current FCC Form 602 regarding ownership information of the applicant. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.919. Therefore, unless the applicant already has a current FCC Form 602 on file with the Commission, as of March 20, 2000, the applicant must submit a current FCC Form 602 at the time it files its FCC Form 601. Any late-filed FCC Form 602 must contain a request for waiver of the filing requirement in 47 C.F.R. § 1.919.

FCC Form 602 must be filed manually (not electronically), and may be obtained from the Internet at, <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html> or by calling the FCC's Form Distribution Center at 1-800-418-FORM (3676). For more detailed information on FCC Form 602, *see* "Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Answers Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Reporting of Ownership Information on FCC Form 602," *Public Notice*, DA 99-1001 (rel. May 25, 1999).

Applicants that do not have a current FCC Form 602 on file should send the form to:

Federal Communications Commission
1270 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245

Filing FCC Form 602 is a separate requirement from, and in addition to, the ownership reporting requirements associated with filing FCC Form 601, Exhibit A, as set forth in Attachment D. However, to avoid duplication, applicants may provide certain information required in Exhibit A by attaching a copy of their FCC Form 602 (in Adobe PDF Format) to their FCC Form 601. Applicants are reminded, however, that an original FCC Form 602 still must be filed manually in Gettysburg, PA. For further information, see Instructions in Attachment D.

Applications for multiple licenses. Applicants for multiple licenses are not required to submit separate Forms 601 and 602 for each market if **all** filing information associated with the application (name and address information, all ownership and eligibility attachments, and waiver requests) is identical **except** for the market designator, channel block and market name (for Auction No. 26, this would be the 929 and 931 MHz Paging service geographic area license designator; for example, 929 MHz Paging GCMEA001A - Boston, or 931 MHz Paging CZMEA051BK - American Samoa). Under these circumstances, applicants may submit *one* FCC Form 601 Main Form and Schedule B, and Form 602.

Filers whose name and address, ownership, eligibility, and waiver requests are identical for some licenses but different for other licenses must submit a separate Form 601 and 602 for those licenses for which filing information is unique. The streamlined filing procedure described in the above paragraph may only be used for licenses that have identical filing information.

Application processing and license grant. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.2108(b) and 22.227(a), and the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Pub. L. 105-33, 111 Stat. 251 (1997),

interested parties will have **ten (10) days** to file petitions to deny after the Commission releases a public notice announcing that the FCC Forms 601 and 602 are acceptable for filing. An applicant may file an opposition to any petition to deny within **five (5) days** after the time for filing petitions to deny has expired. *See* 47 C.F.R. §1.2108(c). The petitioner may file a reply to such opposition within **five (5) days** after the time for filing oppositions has expired. *See* 47 C.F.R. §1.2108(c). If the Commission determines that an applicant is qualified and there is no substantial and material issue of fact concerning that determination, the Commission will issue a public notice announcing that it is prepared to grant the application conditioned upon the full and timely payment of the remaining balance of the applicant's winning bid. Once the Commission has received full payment of the applicant's winning bid, it will issue a public notice announcing grant of the license (or licenses) to the applicant.

Anti-collusion rules. To ensure the competitiveness of the auction process, the Commission's rules prohibit applicants for the same geographic license area from communicating with each other during the auction about bids, bidding strategies, or settlements. As explained more fully in the Public Notice announcing Auction No. 26,⁶ this prohibition begins with the filing of short-form applications and ends on the down payment due date.⁷ The prohibition ends on the down payment due date whether or not a high bidder must supplement its upfront payment to cover its down payment. By signing their FCC Form 175 short-form applications, applicants are certifying their compliance with Section 1.2105(c).

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⁶ "Auction of 929 and 931 MHz Paging Service Spectrum; Auction Notice and Filing Requirements for 2,499 Paging Upper Band Licenses Scheduled for February 24, 2000; Minimum Opening Bids and Other Procedural Issues," *Public Notice*, DA 99-1591 (rel. August 12, 1999).

⁷ *See id.* at 5-6.

For further information, contact:

News Media:

Meribeth McCarrick at 202-418-0654

Technical Support Hotline:

Technical Support Personnel
at 202-414-1250 (V)
or 202-414-1255 (text telephone (TTY))

Office of the Managing Director
Auctions Accounting Group
(Payment, FCC Form 159 and refund
questions)

Gail Glasser or Michelle Bennett
at 202-418-1995

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau,
Commercial Wireless Division
(FCC Form 601 and 602 questions)

Bettye Woodward at 202-418-1345,
John Branscome at 202-418-8205 or
Richard Arsenault at 202-418-0920.

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau,
Auctions and Industry Analysis Division
(Auction-related questions)

Bob Reagle, Auctions Analyst,
at 717-338-2807; Lisa Hartigan,
Project Manager, or Rosemary Cabral,
Auctions Attorney, at 202-418-0660

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