



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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FCC Begins the Process of Privatizing the Administration of System Identification Numbers for Cellular Systems

On September 24, 2002, the Commission released a *Report and Order*, which, in part, removes the responsibility of System Identification Numbers (SIDs) administration for the Cellular Radiotelephone Service from the FCC.¹ The *Report and Order* authorizes the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) to take all necessary steps to privatize the function of cellular SIDs administration including, but not limited to, selecting a party or parties to perform as SIDs administrator(s), providing the administrator(s) with the Commission's SID database, and publicizing the change to the cellular industry.

SIDs are numeric identifiers used by cellular systems to identify the home system of a cellular telephone and by the cellular telephone to determine their roaming status. Unlike the identifiers used in other Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS), cellular SIDs are currently a required element of licensing and are part of the official license record. Other CMRS such as Personal Communications Services (PCS) and Specialized Mobile Radio Systems (SMRS) also have means to perform the above functions but they do not involve the Commission and the identifiers are not listed on the license.

WTB is beginning the process to transition cellular SIDs administration from the FCC to the private sector. The first step is to identify the party or parties that are interested in assuming the function of cellular SIDs administrator. The qualified party or parties that are selected to perform this function will be required to enter into a written agreement with the FCC.² Parties interested in providing SIDs administration for cellular systems, or parties that have an interest in the transition of this function, are asked to e-mail a brief statement of their interest to Denise Walter of the Commercial Wireless Division, WTB, at dwalter@fcc.gov, no later than November 21, 2002. If you have any questions regarding this Public Notice, you may contact Denise Walter at 202-418-0620.

¹ See Year 2000 Biennial Regulatory Review – Amendment of Part 22 of the Commission's Rules to Modify or Eliminate Outdated Rules Affecting the Cellular Radiotelephone Service and other Commercial Mobile Radio Services, WT Docket No. 01-108, *Report and Order*, FCC 02-229 (rel. Sept. 24, 2002). The *Report and Order* eliminates section 22.941 of the Commission rules, 47 C.F.R. § 22.941, regarding the use of SIDs and the SIDs assignment process, in its entirety.

² Parties should be aware that there will be no compensation from the Commission to the party or parties selected.

