



PUBLIC NOTICE

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AUCTION OF BROADBAND PCS SPECTRUM

Status of FCC Form 175 Applications to Participate in Auction No. 58

Report No. AUC-04-58-F (Auction No. 58)

The Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) has received 49 FCC Form 175 (short-form) applications to participate in the upcoming auction of 242 broadband PCS licenses (“Auction No. 58”) scheduled to begin on Wednesday, January 26, 2005. The applications have been reviewed for completeness and compliance with the Commission’s rules, and have been classified into the categories listed below.

Application Categories:

ACCEPTED FOR FILING 22 applications

INCOMPLETE 27 applications

Accepted: Applications accepted for filing are listed alphabetically in Attachment A. **These applicants will become qualified bidders upon receipt of the required upfront payment due by 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on December 29, 2004.**¹ With respect to the FCC Form 175 application, these applicants need take no further action except as may be necessary to maintain the accuracy of their applications.² Attachment A also includes FCC account numbers that were automatically created by the FCC software system for each applicant and indicates the licenses selected by each applicant on its FCC Form 175 filing.³

¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.2106.

² See 47 C.F.R. § 1.65. See also Broadband PCS Spectrum Auction Scheduled for January 12, 2005, Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments and Other Auction Procedures, *Public Notice*, 19 FCC Rcd 18190 (WTB 2004) (“*Auction No. 58 Procedures Public Notice*”).

³ The licenses selected by each applicant are listed in Attachment A as “OPEN” or “CLOSED.” For the purposes of Attachment A, the “OPEN” designation refers to C and F block licenses available in open bidding and to A, D, and E block licenses.

Incomplete: Applications found to be incomplete are listed alphabetically in Attachment B. Applicants whose FCC Form 175 applications have been deemed incomplete will receive overnight correspondence indicating what information is required to make the applications acceptable for filing. **These applicants may become qualified bidders only if they: (1) make the required upfront payments by 6:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday, December 29, 2004; and (2) resubmit their applications by 6:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday, December 29, 2004, having corrected the deficiencies indicated.** Applicants also must maintain the accuracy of their FCC Form 175 applications as required by the Commission's rules.⁴ Applicants are advised that Attachment B includes FCC account numbers that were automatically created by the FCC software system for each applicant.

The filing window for resubmitting FCC Form 175 applications is now open. Corrected applications must be filed no later than **6:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday, December 29, 2004.** This will be the only opportunity to cure FCC Form 175 defects; late resubmissions will not be accepted. In addition, if an application remains incomplete or otherwise deficient after the resubmission deadline has passed, the application will be dismissed.⁵

UPFRONT PAYMENT DEADLINE

Upfront payments and accompanying FCC Remittance Advice (FCC Form 159) for Auction No. 58 are due in the proper account at Mellon Bank, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, **no later than 6:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday, December 29, 2004. In order to meet the Commission's upfront payment deadline, an applicant's payment must be credited to the Commission's account by the deadline.**⁶ **Payments must be made by wire transfer in accordance with the instructions provided in the *Auction No. 58 Procedures Public Notice*.**⁷ No other payment method is acceptable for this auction. Applicants are reminded to use their FCC Registration Number ("FRN"), not their FCC Account Numbers, on the FCC Form 159. Applicants must fax a completed FCC Form 159 (revised February 2003) to Mellon Bank at (412) 209-6045 at least one hour before placing the order for the wire transfer (but on the same business day).

Applicants that have filed applications deemed to be incomplete, as noted in this public notice, must submit timely and sufficient upfront payments before the Commission will review their submitted applications. If no upfront payment is made, or the application remains incomplete following its resubmission, the application will be dismissed. If the applicant has provided its FRN and wire transfer instructions from the payor of record, any upfront payment made prior to dismissal will be refunded in a timely manner upon request.

⁴ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.65; 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105(c)(6) (any applicant that makes or receives a prohibited communication shall report such communication in writing to the Commission no later than five business days after the communication occurs).

⁵ The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau ("Bureau") has before it a Request for Waiver and Leave to Amend filed on December 8, 2004, by Clearstone Corp., which requests waiver of 47 C.F. R. § 1.2105(b)(2) to permit an amendment of Clearstone's FCC Form 175 to select different licenses. This request will be addressed separately.

⁶ See Letter from Margaret W. Wiener, Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, to Patrick Shannon, Esq., Counsel for Lynch 3G Communications Corporation, 18 FCC Rcd 11552 (WTB-AIAD 2003).

⁷ See *Auction No. 58 Procedures Public Notice*, 19 FCC Rcd at 18211-14. Because of legal requirements instituted pursuant to the Patriot Act, some financial institutions may also require the address for Mellon Bank for the wire transfer. That address is: Mellon Bank, 500 Ross Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15262.

Applicants are responsible for obtaining confirmation from their financial institution that Mellon Bank has timely received their upfront payment and deposited it in the proper account. We remind applicants that to avoid untimely upfront payments they should discuss arrangements (including transfer times and bank closing schedules) with their financial institution several days before making the wire transfer, and allow sufficient time for the transfer to be initiated and completed before the deadline. Detailed information regarding upfront payments including additional requirements for “former defaulters” can be found in the *Auction No. 58 Procedures Public Notice* under Section II.E and Section III.D.⁸

Note: Applicants are reminded to submit the same FRN with all future payments.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Qualified Bidders: Approximately two weeks after the upfront payment deadline, following Commission review of resubmitted FCC Form 175 applications, and correlation of payments and applications, a public notice listing all applicants qualified to bid in the auction will be released (“*Qualified Bidders Public Notice*”). The same public notice will also include instructions for participating in the mock auction and bidding schedules for both the mock auction and the first day of the auction.

Due Diligence: Potential bidders are reminded that they are solely responsible for investigating and evaluating all technical and marketplace factors that may have a bearing on the value of the licenses being offered in this auction. The FCC makes no representations or warranties about the use of this spectrum for particular services. Potential bidders are strongly encouraged to conduct their own research prior to Auction No. 58 in order to determine the existence of pending proceedings that might affect their decisions regarding participation in the auction. Participants in Auction No. 58 are strongly encouraged to continue such research during the auction. For further details regarding due diligence, please refer to the *Auction No. 58 Procedures Public Notice* under Section I.B.3.

Prohibition of Collusion: Applicants are reminded that Sections 1.2105(c) of the Commission’s rules prohibit applicants for any of the same geographic license areas from communicating with each other during the auction about bids, bidding strategies, or settlements unless they have identified each other as parties with which they have entered into agreements under Section 1.2105(a)(2)(viii).⁹ For Auction No. 58, this prohibition became effective at the short-form application filing deadline on Tuesday, November 30, 2004, and will end on the post-auction down payment deadline, which will be announced in a future public notice.¹⁰ **This prohibition applies to all applicants regardless of whether such applicants become qualified bidders or actually bid.**¹¹ For purposes of this prohibition, Section 1.2105(c)(7)(i) defines applicant as including all controlling interests in the entity submitting a short-form application to participate in the auction, as well as all holders of partnership and other ownership interests and any stock

⁸ *Auction No. 58 Procedures Public Notice* at 18208, 18211-14

⁹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.2105(a)(2)(viii) 1.2105(c)(1). *See also* Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission’s Rules — Competitive Bidding Procedures, *Seventh Report and Order*, 16 FCC Rcd 17546 (2001) (*Part 1 Seventh Report and Order*); Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission’s Rules — Competitive Bidding Procedures, *Order on Reconsideration of the Third Report and Order, Fifth Report and Order, and Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, 15 FCC Rcd 15293, 15297-98 ¶¶ 7-8 (2000).

¹⁰ 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105(c)(1).

¹¹ *See, e.g.*, Letter to Robert Pettit, Esquire, from Margaret W. Wiener, Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 16 FCC Rcd 10080 (WTB-AIAD 2000) (declining to except an applicant’s controlling interest from coverage by the anti-collusion rule, even though the applicant never made an upfront payment for the auction and was not listed as a qualified bidder).

interest amounting to 10 percent or more of the entity, or outstanding stock, or outstanding voting stock of the entity submitting a short-form application, and all officers and directors of that entity.¹² If parties had agreed in principle on all material terms of a bidding agreement(s), those parties must have been identified on the short-form application under Section 1.2105(c), even if the agreement had not been reduced to writing. If parties had not agreed in principle by the filing deadline, an applicant should not have included the names of those parties on its application, and must not have continued negotiations.¹³

The Bureau has encouraged applicants competing for licenses in any of the same geographic license areas not to use the same individual as an authorized bidder.¹⁴ A violation of the anti-collusion rule could occur if an individual acts as the authorized bidder for two or more competing applicants, and conveys information concerning the substance of bids or bidding strategies between the bidders he or she is authorized to represent in the auction. A violation could similarly occur if the authorized bidders are different individuals employed by the same organization (e.g., law firm or consulting firm). In such a case, at a minimum, applicants should take precautionary steps to prevent communication between authorized bidders.¹⁵

In addition, Section 1.65 of the Commission's rules requires an applicant to *maintain* the accuracy and completeness of information furnished in its pending application and to notify the Commission within 30 days of any substantial change that may be of decisional significance to that application.¹⁶ Thus, Section 1.65 requires auction applicants that engage in communications of bids or bidding strategies that result in a bidding agreement, arrangement, or understanding not already identified on their short-form applications to promptly disclose any such agreement, arrangement, or understanding to the Commission by amending their pending applications. In addition, Section 1.2105(c)(6) requires all auction applicants to report prohibited discussions or disclosures regarding bids or bidding strategy to the Commission in writing immediately, but in no case later than five business days after the communication occurs, even if the communication does not result in an agreement or understanding regarding bids or bidding strategy that must be reported under Section 1.65.¹⁷

Applicants that are winning bidders will be required to disclose in their long-form applications the specific terms, conditions, and parties involved in all bidding consortia, joint ventures, partnerships, and other arrangements entered into relating to the competitive bidding process.¹⁸ Any applicant found to have violated the anti-collusion rule may be subject to sanctions.¹⁹ In addition, applicants are reminded that they are subject to the antitrust laws, which are designed to prevent anti-competitive behavior in the marketplace. If an applicant is found to have violated the antitrust laws in connection with its

¹² 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105(c)(7)(i).

¹³ See Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Clarifies Spectrum Auction Anti-Collusion Rules, *Public Notice*, 11 FCC Rcd 9645 (WTB 1995).

¹⁴ See *Auction No. 58 Procedures Public Notice*, 19 FCC Rcd at 18197-99.

¹⁵ See *In re Application of Nevada Wireless for a License to Provide 800 MHz Specialized Mobile Radio Service in the Farmington, NM-CO Economic Area (EA-155) Frequency Band A*, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 13 FCC Rcd. 11973, 11977 ¶ 11 (1998).

¹⁶ 47 C.F.R. § 1.65.

¹⁷ 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105(c)(6); see also *Part 1 Seventh Report and Order*, 16 FCC Rcd at 17555 ¶ 17.

¹⁸ 47 C.F.R. § 1.2107(d).

¹⁹ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.2105(c), 1.2107(d), and 1.2109(d).

participation in the competitive bidding process, it may be subject to forfeiture of its upfront payment, down payment, or full bid amount and may be prohibited from participating in future auctions.²⁰

Ex Parte Rule: Applicants should also be aware that the Commission has generally exempted auction proceedings from the strict requirements of the *ex parte* rule found in Section 1.1208 of the Commission's rules.²¹

Mock Auction: All applicants found to be qualified bidders will be eligible to participate in a mock auction on Friday, January 21, 2005. We encourage all qualified bidders to take advantage of this mock auction to become familiar with the FCC Automated Auction System. In the *Qualified Bidders Public Notice*, the Bureau will announce the bidding schedule for the mock auction and give details about participation. The mock auction will be conducted over the Internet, and telephonic bidding will be available as well. As a contingency plan, bidders may also dial in to the FCC Wide Area Network.

Electronic Bidding: Applicants are reminded that qualified bidders are eligible to bid either electronically or telephonically. Applicants should specify their bidding preference on the FCC Form 175.

Bidders can access the FCC Automated Auction System over the Internet. Access to the system via the Internet requires, at a minimum, the following hardware and software:

- CPU: Pentium 133 or above
- RAM: 32 MB (64 MB recommended)
- Monitor: VGA or above
- Mouse or other pointing device
- Operating System: Microsoft® Windows™ 95™, 98™, 2000™, ME™, NT™, XP™
- Web Browser, either of the following:
 - ◆ Microsoft® Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher (recommended). Your browser must have either Microsoft VM or Java Plug-In Version 1.3.1_08 installed.
 - ◆ Netscape® Communicator™ 4.0 or higher, with Java Plug-In Version 1.3.1_08.

Java Plug-In Version 1.3.1_08 is available for downloading at
<http://java.sun.com/products/archive/index.html>

Other browsers are not supported.

As a contingency plan, bidders can also access the FCC Automated Auction System by dialing in to the FCC's Wide Area Network. Bidders dialing in to the FCC's Wide Area Network will need:

- Modem: 28.8 Kbps Hayes© compatible modem or faster (56 Kbps recommended)
- Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) Dialer: Use the Dial-Up Networking feature included with the operating system

²⁰ 47 C.F.R. § 1.2109(d).

²¹ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1208. See Commission Announces that Mutually Exclusive 'Short-Form' Applications (Form 175) to Participate in Competitive Bidding Process ('Auctions') Are Treated as Exempt for Ex Parte Purposes, *Public Notice*, 9 FCC Rcd 6760 (1994).

Long-Form Applications: All applicants should be aware that at the long-form application stage, they will be subject to the more extensive reporting requirements contained in the Commission's Part 1 ownership disclosure rule.²²

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about payment or instructions for wiring upfront payments, contact Gail Glasser, Auctions Accounting Group, at (202) 418-0578.

For specific questions about an applicant's incomplete status, the applicant should contact the staff reviewer identified in the correspondence sent to the applicant by overnight mail.

For technical assistance with using the FCC Automated Auction System, contact the FCC Technical Support Hotline at (202) 414-1250 (V) or (202) 414-1255 (TTY). The FCC Technical Support Hotline is generally available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET. *All calls to the FCC Technical Support Hotline are recorded.*

For further information concerning this proceeding, contact:

Auctions and Spectrum Access Division, WTB:

For legal questions: Scott Mackoul or Audrey Bashkin at (202) 418-0660

For bidding and auction procedures questions: Jeff Crooks at (202) 418-0660

For bidding and general filing status questions: Lisa Stover at (717) 338-2888

Mobility Division, WTB:

For legal and service rule questions: Erin McGrath or Dwain Livingston at (202) 418-0620

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²² See 47 C.F.R. § 1.2112(b)(2).