



PUBLIC NOTICE

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION PROVIDES ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE 600 MHz BAND PLAN

GN Docket No. 12-268

As part of the Learn Everything About Reverse-Auctions Now Program (LEARN), the Federal Communications Commission will host a public workshop on **May 3, 2013, from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM in the Commission Meeting Room** to discuss technical aspects of the 600 MHz wireless band plan that will result from the broadcast television incentive auction.¹

In the *Broadcast Television Incentive Auction NPRM*, the Commission sought public comment on creating a 600 MHz band plan from the spectrum made available for flexible use through the broadcast television incentive auction.² In proposing a band plan, the Commission focused on five key policy goals: utility, certainty, interchangeability, quantity, and interoperability.³ The proposed 600 MHz Band Plan contains several features, some novel, to achieve these goals, including auctioning “generic” blocks rather than specific frequency blocks; licensing in 5 MHz “building blocks;” offering blocks designated specifically for uplink and for downlink operations; establishing guard bands, where necessary; and prioritizing paired blocks wherever possible, and offering supplemental downlink spectrum where paired blocks are not possible.⁴ Most commenters support these features of the 600 MHz Band Plan. The record, however, reflects a broad range of commenter views on how and where to configure the uplink and downlink blocks in the band plan.

At the workshop, a panel of FCC experts will lead a day-long roundtable discussion with stakeholders on how best to achieve the FCC’s five policy goals in crafting a 600 MHz band plan. The goal is to evaluate and quantify technical tradeoffs among the proposed 600 MHz band plan, alternative band plan proposals in the Commission’s NPRM, and other proposals put forward by commenters.

¹ See FCC Announces Workshop to Discuss 600 MHz Band Plan, *Public Notice*, DA 13-614 (April 4, 2013). See also, Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions, *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, 27 FCC Rcd 12357 (2012) (*Broadcast Television Incentive Auction NPRM*).

² *NPRM*, 27 FCC Rcd at 12401, paras. 123-184.

³ *NPRM*, 27 FCC Rcd at 12401, para. 125.

⁴ In the 600 MHz Band Plan, the uplink band begins at channel 51 (698 MHz) and expands downward toward channel 37, and the downlink band begins at channel 36 (608 MHz) and expands downward; existing channel 37 operations remain on that channel, and depending on the amount of spectrum cleared, some broadcast TV stations would likely remain in the duplex gap. The 600 MHz Band Plan also contemplates a single, nationwide downlink band while allowing for variable uplink to accommodate market-by-market clearing, rather than being constrained by the minimum amount of spectrum that can be cleared nationwide. *NPRM*, 27 FCC Rcd at 12401, paras. 123-184.

Workshop participants will discuss the following technical issues that have been raised in the record:

- mobile antenna issues,
- high power services in the duplex gap and intermodulation issues,
- harmonics interference,
- co-channel interference,
- filter pass band, and
- duplexing approaches permitted in the band.

Workshop participants will focus on technical issues involving licensed, flexible use wireless services in the 600 MHz band and interference issues raised by the coexistence of mobile services and television stations in the band. Related band plan issues, such as the use of guard bands or channel 37 by various licensed or unlicensed transmissions, may be the focus of a future LEARN workshop.

For more information about the incentive auction, visit: <http://www.fcc.gov/learn>.

Attendance. This forum is open to the public. All attendees are advised to arrive approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of the workshop to allow time to go through our security process. Attendees are encouraged to pre-register by submitting their name and company affiliation via email to Cecilia Sulhoff (Cecilia.Sulhoff@fcc.gov) in order to expedite the check-in process the day of the event. Please use “Band Plan Workshop” as the subject line in your email.

Webcast. The forum will be webcast at <http://www.fcc.gov/live>.

Accessibility Information. Open captioning will be provided for this event. Other reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Requests for such accommodations should be submitted via e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or by calling the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY). Such requests should include a detailed description of the accommodation needed. This document can also be downloaded in Word and Portable Document Format (PDF) at: <http://www.fcc.gov>.

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