



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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DA 14-210  
Released: February 19, 2014

## Office of Engineering and Technology Announces the Opening of Public Testing for Comsearch's TV Band Database System

### ET Docket No. 04-186

The Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) announces that on February 24, 2014, it will commence a 45-day public trial of Comsearch's TV band database system. This is a limited trial that is intended to allow the public to access and test Comsearch's database system to ensure that it correctly identifies channels that are available for unlicensed radio transmitting devices that operate in the TV band (unlicensed TV band devices), properly registers radio transmitting facilities entitled to protection, and provides protection to authorized services and registered facilities as specified in the rules. We encourage all interested parties to test the database and provide appropriate feedback to Comsearch.

The Commission's Part 15 rules (47 C.F.R. § 15.701 *et seq.*) require that unlicensed TV band devices contact an authorized database system to obtain a list of channels that are available for their operation (*i.e.*, channels not occupied by authorized radio services) at their individual locations and must operate only on those channels. Such devices are required to provide their geographic location, by means of a secure Internet connection, to a TV band database system authorized by the Commission. The database will then return a list of the channels available for operation by a device at its reported location.

As part of its authorization process for TV band database systems, the Commission stated that each database will be subject to a public trial period of not less than 45 days to ensure that the database is providing accurate results before it is allowed to be made available for regular public use. OET has examined the Comsearch database system's channel availability calculator and registration facilities and finds that these capabilities are ready for trial testing by the public.

### Trial Access and Details

Parties may participate in the trial by accessing Comsearch's TV band database test facility at: <https://comsearch.whitespacedatabase.com>. This website provides a description of the trial, instructions for participation, details on use of the database system, access to the database's various capabilities, and a link for providing comments and other feedback to Comsearch. The test facility will not be active before the date the trial is scheduled to commence.

During this trial, participants are encouraged to test:

- the channel availability calculator;

- the MVPD receive site (cable headend and satellite receive site) registration utility
- the broadcast auxiliary temporary receive site registration utility
- the fixed TVWS device registration utility; and
- the wireless microphone registration utility

The trial is intended to ensure that each of these elements of the database system is working properly and providing the interference protection required under our rules.

In addition, participants are encouraged to report any inaccuracies or provide comments on other issues with any aspect of the database system to Comsearch through the response facility on the trial's website. Comsearch will respond, as appropriate, to such reports and comments with an explanation and notification of any responsive actions it may take, as appropriate. During the trial, Comsearch may apply any corrective measures it determines are needed and will advise participants of such measures through the trial's website.

As indicated above, the trial of the Comsearch database system is currently scheduled to last for 45 days and will therefore end on April 9, 2014. However, if the results of the trial indicate that additional testing is necessary, OET may extend the trial period.

After the close of the trial, Comsearch will provide a summary report to OET that identifies: 1) problems reported and their disposition; and 2) descriptions of changes made to the channel availability calculator or registration systems. Once Comsearch submits its report, OET will provide a short period of time for interested parties to submit comments on the report. Note that the successful performance of the database system through this trial is only one element in OET's evaluation of a system for approval to operate. Other requirements for TV band database systems are set forth in 47 C.F.R. 15.701 *et seq.* and OET's January 26, 2011 *Order* on TV band database administrators (*see Order* in ET Docket No. 04-186, DA 11-131). OET would grant final approval for Comsearch to operate its database system with certified TV band devices once it determines that the system complies with all of the applicable rules and requirements. The public will be informed of such decision through a Public Notice.

The FCC rules require that TV band database systems protect the following radio services: 1) broadcast television stations (including full power, TV translator, low power TV, and Class A stations); 2) fixed broadcast auxiliary service (BAS) links (regular licensed and temporary); 3) receive sites (and received channels) of TV translator, low power TV, and Class A TV stations and multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs); 4) private land mobile radio service and commercial mobile radio service operations; 5) offshore radio telephone service operations; 6) radio astronomy operations at specific sites; and 7) low power auxiliary service operations (principally licensed and certain approved unlicensed wireless microphone venue sites). Except for MVPD receive sites, sites where licensed wireless microphones are used, and approved unlicensed wireless microphone venues, the necessary data and information for protection of the above facilities will either be extracted by Comsearch from the Commission's databases or are specified in the rules. Operators of facilities for which information is contained in the Commission's records or provided in the rules do not need to take any action to obtain protection from TV band devices.

Operators of MVPD receive sites, wireless microphones users, and operators of temporary BAS links must specifically register their sites to receive protection from TV band devices. As required under the rules, Comsearch is providing a registration capability for these facilities. These registration capabilities are available through the database test facility at: <https://comsearch.whitespacedatabase.com>. The rules also provide that responsible parties may request that the Commission approve registrations for protection of venues where unlicensed wireless microphones are used (such requests may be made

through the Commission's Universal Licensing System (ULS) at <http://www.fcc.gov/uls/login>). Such requests for registration will first be made available for public comment, and the Commission will subsequently review them for approval. For purposes of this trial, Comsearch, with OET's approval, has implemented a test registration capability for registration of venues where unlicensed wireless microphones are used; this test registration capability is available through Comsearch's database test facility.

Registrations for MVPD receive sites, sites where licensed wireless microphones are used, venues where large numbers of wireless microphones are used, and temporary BAS links that are made during the trial period will be deleted by Comsearch after the trial. Parties will be able to register their MVPD receive sites, sites where licensed wireless microphones are used, and temporary BAS links in the database once general operation of the database for use by TV band devices is approved and implemented. Parties responsible for venues where unlicensed wireless microphones are used will need to request registration approval by the Commission. We encourage parties responsible for MVPD receive sites, licensed wireless microphone operations, venues where large numbers of unlicensed wireless microphones are used, and temporary BAS links to enter trial registrations and make use of these capabilities in their testing of Comsearch's database. We also note that all registrations entered with a given database will be communicated to the other TV band databases that have been approved for operation, so that registrations will not need to be entered with multiple databases (registrations entered during the trial will not be communicated to the other databases).<sup>1</sup> Thus, registrations entered into the Comsearch database after the trial will be communicated to, and included in, the other databases.

The TV band database systems are the subject of a docketed proceeding, **ET Docket No. 04-186**, and responses to the trial of Comsearch's database system conducted pursuant to this public notice may be filed with the Commission at any time using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) as described below. The FCC has implemented a simplified interface for ECFS to facilitate consumer comment. Documents filed on ECFS may be accessed and reviewed on that system, which contains copies of written submissions and summaries of oral submissions regarding the white spaces proceeding.

Pursuant to sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on the trial of Comsearch's database system at any time during and after the trial period. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

- Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/>.
- Paper Filers: Parties that choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, filers must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number.

Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> Thus far, OET has approved the TV band databases of Spectrum Bridge, Inc., iconectiv (formerly Telcordia Technologies, Inc.), Key Bridge Global, LLC, and Google, Inc. for operation to provide service to devices.

- All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW, Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. The filing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes must be disposed of before entering the building.
- Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.
- U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Washington DC 20554.

People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (tty).

All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554. Parties should also send a copy of their filings to Hugh L. Van Tuyl, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, Room 7-A162, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554, or by e-mail to [Hugh.VanTuyl@fcc.gov](mailto:Hugh.VanTuyl@fcc.gov). Parties must also serve one copy with the Commission's copy contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc. (BCPI), Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, (202) 488-5300, or via e-mail to [fcc@bcpiweb.com](mailto:fcc@bcpiweb.com).

Documents in **ET Docket No. 04-186** are available for public inspection and copying during business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. The documents may also be purchased from BCPI, telephone (202) 488-5300, facsimile (202) 488-5563, TTY (202) 488-5562, e-mail [fcc@bcpiweb.com](mailto:fcc@bcpiweb.com).

Questions regarding this Public Notice may be directed to Alan Stillwell at (202) 418-2925 or Hugh L. Van Tuyl at (202) 418-7506.

By the Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology.

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