



PUBLIC NOTICE

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AUCTION OF FLEXIBLE-USE SERVICE LICENSES IN THE 3.45–3.55 GHz BAND FOR NEXT GENERATION WIRELESS SERVICES

33 APPLICANTS QUALIFIED TO BID IN AUCTION 110

AU Docket No. 21-62

1. By this Public Notice, the Office of Economics and Analytics (OEA) and the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) identify 33 applicants that are qualified to bid in Auction 110.¹ Auction 110 will offer new flexible-use licenses in the 3.45–3.55 GHz band (3.45 GHz Service) throughout the contiguous United States.² Bidding in Auction 110 is scheduled to begin on October 5, 2021. This Public Notice also provides important information to qualified bidders concerning access to the Auction 110 bidding system, available educational materials, the mock auction, and the start of bidding for Auction 110. Finally, the Public Notice reminds all applicants, including those that are not qualified to bid, of certain requirements adopted for this auction.

I. QUALIFIED BIDDERS AND NON-QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

2. The short-form applications to participate in Auction 110 (FCC Form 175) have been reviewed for completeness and compliance with the Commission’s rules, and the applicants have been classified into the categories listed below.

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Qualified | 33 applicants |
| Non-Qualified | 9 applicants |

3. **Qualified Bidders.** Attachment A to this Public Notice lists the names of the 33 qualified bidders. Attachment A also indicates whether the applicant has claimed eligibility for a small business or rural service provider bidding credit. For those applicants claiming a small business bidding credit, the attachment lists each qualified bidder’s claimed bidding credit revenue range. Designation of an applicant as qualified to bid in the auction indicates that the applicant has provided the certifications and information concerning its qualifications for participation in the auction, as required by the

¹ A copy of this Public Notice will be sent by email to the contact person listed on the FCC Form 175 for each Auction 110 applicant.

² See generally *Auction of Flexible-Use Service Licenses in the 3.45–3.55 GHz Band for Next-Generation Wireless Services; Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments, and Other Procedures for Auction 110; Bidding in Auction 110 Scheduled to Begin October 5, 2021*, AU Docket No. 21-62, Public Notice, DA 21-655 (OEA/WTB 2021) (*Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice*). Due to the impact of Hurricane Ida, OEA and WTB extended the Auction 110 deadlines for upfront payments and resubmission of previously incomplete applications from September 2, 2021, to September 7, 2021. See generally *Deadlines for Upfront Payments and Resubmission of Previously Incomplete Applications in Auction 110 Extended to September 7, 2021*, AU Docket No. 21-62, Public Notice, DA 21-1073 (OEA/WTB 2021).

Commission's competitive bidding rules, and that the applicant timely submitted a sufficient upfront payment.³

4. In order to participate effectively in the auction, each qualified bidder should carefully review the auction rules, procedures, and other information described in the *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* and subsequent public notices.⁴ These public notices and other documents related to Auction 110 are available on the Auction 110 website in the Releases section at www.fcc.gov/auction/110. This Public Notice provides additional guidance for qualified bidders.

5. **Non-Qualified Applicants.** Attachment B to this Public Notice lists each applicant that submitted an FCC Form 175 but did not qualify to bid in Auction 110. All applicants, including those that have been deemed not qualified to bid, remain subject to the Commission's rules prohibiting certain communications pertaining to bids and bidding strategies.⁵ Upon the release of this Public Notice, any applicant that executed the *Auction 110 Protective Order* but did not qualify to bid in the auction will no longer have access to the Department of Defense Controlled Unclassified Information covered by the protective order.⁶

II. REGISTRATION AND ACCESS TO THE AUCTION BIDDING SYSTEM

A. Registration Materials

6. All qualified bidders have been registered automatically for the auction. Registration materials will be sent by overnight delivery only to the contact person at the contact person's address identified in the qualified bidder's FCC Form 175.⁷ The contact person for each qualified bidder must distribute each RSA token to the specific authorized bidder as identified on each envelope contained in the registration materials package. Upon receipt, each qualified bidder should possess the following:

³ See 47 CFR §§ 1.2105, 1.2106, 1.2112. Under the Commission's two-phased auction application process, a winning bidder must submit a long-form application (FCC Form 601) after the close of bidding in an auction to demonstrate its qualifications to hold a Commission license and, if a bidding credit is requested, its eligibility for the requested bidding credit. Thus, a determination that a short-form application (FCC Form 175) to participate in Auction 110 is complete and complies with the Commission's competitive bidding rules and policies is not determinative of an applicant's qualifications to hold a license or entitlement to a bidding credit. See 47 CFR §§ 1.2107-1.2109; *Implementation of Section 309(j) of the Communications Act – Competitive Bidding*, PP Docket No. 93-253, Second Report and Order, 9 FCC Rcd 2348, 2376-77, paras. 163-68 (1994). Commission staff generally consider an applicant's qualifications and eligibility for a bidding credit after the auction during the long-form application process. If an applicant is found unqualified to be a Commission licensee or ineligible for any claimed bidding credit, it will be liable for any obligations incurred as a result of its participation in the auction. See generally 47 CFR § 1.2109.

⁴ See generally *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice*.

⁵ See 47 CFR § 1.2105(c); *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 16, para. 43 & n.101.

⁶ See generally *WTB and OEA Release Protective Order to Provide Auction 110 Applicants Access to Controlled Unclassified Information on Department of Defense Systems in the 3.45–3.55 GHz Band*, AU Docket No. 21-62, Public Notice, DA 21-1023 (OEA/WTB 2021); see also *Auction 110 Protective Order for Access to Controlled Unclassified Information on Department of Defense Systems in the 3.45–3.55 GHz Band*, AU Docket No. 21-62, Protective Order, DA 21-1026 (OEA/WTB 2021) (*Auction 110 Protective Order*). We remind non-qualified applicants that, within two weeks of release of this Public Notice, or by October 1, 2021, they must destroy any Department of Defense Controlled Unclassified Information in their possession that they obtained pursuant to the *Auction 110 Protective Order*. See *Auction 110 Protective Order* at 4, para. 16.

⁷ This package will require a signature for delivery to confirm receipt by the applicant. The person signing for the package does not need to be the contact person identified in the qualified bidder's FCC Form 175.

- Three RSA SecurID® tokens (RSA tokens);⁸
- A web address and instructions for accessing and logging in to the FCC auction bidding system;
- An FCC assigned username (user ID) for each authorized bidder; and
- The FCC Auction Bidder Line telephone number.

7. A qualified bidder must have the above-referenced registration materials to participate in the mock auction and to bid in the clock phase of Auction 110.⁹ Any qualified bidder listed in Attachment A of this Public Notice that has not received the registration mailing **by 12:00 noon Eastern Time (ET) on Tuesday, September 28, 2021**, should contact the Auctions Hotline at (717) 338-2868. Receipt of the registration mailing is crucial to participating in the clock phase mock auction and in Auction 110. Each qualified bidder is responsible for ensuring that it has received all the registration materials listed above.

8. Each qualified bidder is solely responsible for ensuring the security and functionality of its computer systems, Internet connection(s), and its registration materials, in addition to ensuring that only authorized bidders place bids on its behalf. The Commission assumes no responsibility or liability for these matters. **WARNING: Any unauthorized entity accessing or tampering with an FCC or other government computer system will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.**

B. Registration Material Replacement

9. In the event that a qualified bidder's RSA tokens are lost or damaged, only a person who has been designated as an authorized bidder, the contact person, or the certifying official on the applicant's FCC Form 175 may request replacements. To request replacements for these items, call the Auction Bidder Line at the telephone number provided in the registration materials, or the Auctions Hotline at (717) 338-2868.

C. Access to the Bidding System

10. The Commission will conduct the mock auction and bidding in the clock phase of Auction 110 electronically over the Internet. Each qualified bidder will receive in its registration materials the web address for accessing the bidding system.

11. Bidders will first be able to access the bidding system for the mock auction at 10:00 a.m. ET on Wednesday, September 29, 2021. Access to the mock auction bidding system will remain available until 12:00 noon ET on Friday, October 1, 2021. Access to the Auction 110 bidding system will open at 1:00 p.m. ET on Friday, October 1, 2021, and will remain open to bidders through the Clock Phase of Auction 110.

12. Each authorized bidder must have his or her own activated RSA token to access the bidding system and place bids in the mock auction and Auction 110. For security purposes, the RSA tokens and their instructions are sent only to the contact person at the contact address listed on the

⁸ Each qualified bidder has been issued three RSA tokens. A bidder with three authorized bidders has been issued an RSA token for each of its authorized bidders. A bidder with two authorized bidders has been issued an RSA token for each of its authorized bidders, plus one extra RSA token. A bidder with one authorized bidder has been issued an RSA token for its authorized bidder, plus two extra RSA tokens. The extra RSA token(s) cannot be used unless the contact person, certifier, or an authorized bidder for the qualified bidder contacts the FCC to activate the extra token(s) for a specific additional authorized bidder or for an authorized bidder whose RSA token has been lost or damaged.

⁹ The contact person is responsible for timely distributing each RSA token to the specific authorized bidder associated with each token, as well as the relevant information in the registration materials necessary for the authorized bidder to set up his or her access to the bidding system.

qualified bidder's FCC Form 175. Each RSA token is tailored to a specific auction and for a specific authorized bidder. RSA tokens issued for other auctions or obtained from a source other than the Commission will not work for Auction 110.

13. There are minimum system requirements for accessing the FCC clock auction bidding system. Bidders must access the FCC clock auction bidding system over the Internet. To use the FCC auction bidding system, each applicant must have the following:

- Web browser, either of the following is recommended:
 - A recent version of Google Chrome™ (preferred) or Microsoft Edge (Chromium) (the browser must be configured to accept cookies and JavaScript)
- Operating system:
 - Microsoft® Windows® 10; or Apple® Mac OS X® 10.13 or later with at least 8 GB of memory
- Access to the Internet
- 1920 x 1080 screen resolution¹⁰
- While not required, bidders will probably want to use a spreadsheet program such as Microsoft® Excel® 2013 or later for editing their bid files

Smartphones and tablets are not supported.

14. Users should test their computer configurations and browser(s) with the FCC clock auction bidding system in advance of the auction—for example, during the mock auction. Any user attempting to access the FCC clock auction bidding system with a computer configuration or device that does not meet the requirements listed above and in the user guide is solely responsible for any resulting failure to access the clock auction bidding system, failure to do so in a timely manner, or failure of the bidding system to process the user's attempted bidding or other actions (even if it appears to the user that such actions were completed properly).

15. Telephonic bidding will not be available for the clock phase of Auction 110 because it will not be feasible given the number of partial economic area (PEA)-based licenses and the file upload required to submit bids. However, telephonic bidding will be available for the assignment phase of the auction. Further, the Auction Bidder Line will be available during the mock auction and Auction 110 for bidder questions.¹¹

16. RSA tokens can be recycled.¹² We strongly encourage bidders to return the tokens to the Commission. We will provide pre-addressed, stamped envelopes for returning the tokens once bidding is closed.

D. Bidding Contingency Plan

17. Prior to the start of the auction, each bidder should develop comprehensive contingency plans that can be quickly implemented in case difficulties arise when participating in the auction. While the Commission will correct any problems with Commission controlled facilities, each bidder is solely

¹⁰ Other screen resolutions will work, but a minimum of 1920 x 1080 is required to fit all the information from the FCC clock auction bidding system on a single screen without horizontal scrolling. If all the information cannot fit on your display, you can either zoom out using your Internet browser or scroll right and left using the scroll bars. To adjust the zoom, hold down the control ("ctrl") key and use the "+" and "-" keys to zoom in and out.

¹¹ The Auction Bidder Line telephone number will be supplied in the registration materials sent to each qualified bidder.

¹² An RSA token can only be recycled if it is returned in good condition with nothing written or glued on it.

responsible for anticipating and overcoming any other problems that arise, such as bidder computer failures or other technical issues; loss of or problems with data connections, telephone service, or power; adverse local weather conditions; unavailability of its authorized bidders; or the loss or breach of confidential security codes.

18. A qualified bidder should ensure that each of its authorized bidders can access and place bids in the FCC auction bidding system, without relying upon the same computer. Contingency plans will ideally include arrangements for accessing and placing bids in the bidding system from one or more alternative locations.

19. If for any reason a bidder fails to submit all of its bids before the round closes, it may lose some or all of its bidding eligibility.¹³ If a bidder loses all of its bidding eligibility, it will no longer be able to bid in the auction. The Commission will not be able to restore any portion of a bidder's lost bidding eligibility.

III. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES

20. Below we provide information regarding the availability of educational and informational materials, and the opportunity for qualified bidders to participate in a mock auction prior to the start of bidding in the clock phase of Auction 110.¹⁴ The documents and tutorial described below are available in the Education section of the Auction 110 website at www.fcc.gov/auction/110, where they will remain accessible for reference.

A. Clock Phase Bidding System User Guide

21. The Auction 110 Clock Phase Bidding System User Guide describes the features and functionality of the bidding system that will be used in the clock phase of Auction 110. Bidders are encouraged to read the user guide prior to participating in the mock auction in order to familiarize themselves with the auction bidding system.

B. Clock Phase Bidder Data File Formats

22. Qualified bidders in the auction will have access through the bidding system to certain detailed information related to the results of bidding. The file formats document provides, for each data file, an overall description of the file, the data fields that are included (with definitions of the data elements in each field), the data type, examples, and notes.

C. Clock Phase Bidding Tutorial

23. A tutorial available online provides information about the procedures for the clock phase as well as how the bidding system reflects those procedures. The tutorial allows viewers to navigate the presentation outline, review written notes, listen to an audio recording of the notes, and search for topics. Additional features of this web-based tool include links to auction-specific Commission releases, email links for contacting Commission auctions and licensing staff, and screen shots of the clock auction bidding system. The online tutorial is accessible from the Auction 110 website through a link in the Education section. The tutorial will remain available and accessible on the Auction 110 website for reference.

¹³ See *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 58, para. 191-92.

¹⁴ Information regarding the availability of educational materials and a mock auction for the assignment phase will be released in a public notice sufficiently in advance of bidding in the assignment phase so that participants have adequate time to prepare before the beginning of that phase.

D. Clock Phase Mock Auction

24. All qualified bidders in Auction 110 will have the opportunity to participate in a clock phase mock auction on Thursday, September 30, 2021. We strongly encourage each qualified bidder in Auction 110 to participate in the clock phase mock auction as it provides an opportunity for the bidder to practice using the clock auction bidding system, and to test each bidder's contingency plans.

25. A qualified bidder can access the clock phase mock auction at the web address provided to each qualified bidder in the registration materials.

26. For the clock phase mock auction, each qualified bidder will be assigned a randomly-selected set of Partial Economic Areas (PEAs) and eligibility for a specified number of bidding units based on the bidding units associated with these assigned PEAs. These will NOT represent the actual PEAs for which the bidder is qualified to bid or its eligibility based on its actual upfront payment. A qualified bidder will be assigned the same number of PEAs as it selected on its FCC Form 175, up to a maximum of 100 PEAs. The clock phase mock auction will otherwise follow the rules governing Auction 110. Each qualified bidder that claimed eligibility for a bidding credit will have that bidding credit in the mock auction. If a bidder fails to submit bids in the first round, it will lose all of its bidding eligibility and will not be able to participate in subsequent rounds of the mock auction. In subsequent rounds, if a bidder fails to submit all its bids before the round closes, it may lose some or all of its bidding eligibility. If a bidder loses all of its bidding eligibility, it will no longer be able to bid in the mock auction.

27. Each qualified bidder will be able to access its assigned mock auction data through the clock phase mock auction bidding system starting at 10:00 a.m. ET on September 29, 2021. The mock auction bidding schedule for Thursday, September 30, 2021, will be as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Mock Bidding Round 1 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. ET |
| Mock Bidding Round 2 | 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET |
| Mock Bidding Round 3 | 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET |
| Mock Bidding Round 4 | 4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET |

IV. AUCTION INFORMATION**A. Bidding Schedule**

28. Bidding in Auction 110 will begin Tuesday, October 5, 2021, with the following schedule:

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Bidding Round | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET |
| Bidding Round | 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET |

29. The bidding schedule starting on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, and continuing each business day until further notice, will be:

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Bidding Round | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. ET |
| Bidding Round | 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET |
| Bidding Round | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET |

30. We will set the pace of the auction based upon our assessment of the auction's progress. We will provide notice of all subsequent schedule changes by announcement in the FCC clock auction bidding system and the Public Reporting System (PRS) during the course of the auction.

B. Auction Announcements

31. We will post pertinent auction information as announcements in the FCC clock auction bidding system. Each bidder should check for announcements each time it enters the bidding system and should click on and read the entirety of each announcement carefully. Announcements convey important auction information, such as bidding schedule changes.

C. Bid Amounts

32. The minimum opening bid amounts for the licenses available in Auction 110 are set forth in the electronic updated Attachment A file available in the Summary section of the Auction 110 website at www.fcc.gov/auction/110 at the “Updated (9/10/2021)” link. Clock prices for subsequent bidding rounds will be set by adding a fixed percentage to the previous round’s price at an increment of between 5% and 20%, with the initial increment set at 10%.¹⁵ The increment percentage may be adjusted as rounds continue.¹⁶ Any such change would be announced in advance in the bidding system.

33. We caution each qualified bidder to place its bids carefully because each bidder assumes a binding obligation to pay the final clock price for its winning bids should the bidder become a winning bidder, even if the bid was made erroneously.¹⁷

D. Round Results

34. Round results typically will be available within 15 minutes after the close of each round. We remind bidders that the results of their bidding are subject to procedures that limit the disclosure of information on bidder interests and identities until after the close of bidding in Auction 110.¹⁸

35. Two types of reports will be available to qualified bidders during the auction: (1) publicly available information and (2) bidder-specific information available only to that bidder when logged in to the bidding system. The public information will be available on the PRS at <https://auctiondata.fcc.gov>, for which there will be a link in the Results section of the Auction 110 website at www.fcc.gov/auction/110. When a bidder is logged in to the FCC clock auction bidding system, it will have access to a record of the bids it placed on the Bid Summary screen and will have access to the results of its bids on the My Results screen. These features can be accessed using the links in the bidding system’s navigation bar. This information will also be available for the bidder to download.

36. Detailed instructions for reviewing and downloading round results are provided in the Auction 110 Clock Phase Bidding System User Guide. The user guide is available in the Education section of the Auction 110 website at www.fcc.gov/auction/110 and will remain available and accessible on the Auction 110 website for reference.

E. Bidder Questions During Auction 110 and the Mock Auction

37. Commission auction staff and technical support staff will be available during the mock auction and the auction. Only a person who has been designated as an authorized bidder, the contact person, or the certifying official on the qualified bidder’s FCC Form 175 should call on behalf of a bidder. When calling, the person should state that he or she is calling on behalf of a bidder with a time-sensitive auction question, and the person must have his or her login information and RSA token available.

¹⁵ See *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 60, para. 207.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ See 47 CFR § 1.2104(g); *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 65, para. 230.

¹⁸ See *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 15-16, paras. 37-42.

38. Alternatively, a bidder may submit questions or suggestions concerning Auction 110 using the *Messages* feature in the bidding system.¹⁹ However, this is not an appropriate mechanism for asking time-sensitive questions that may need an immediate response. **Any time-sensitive questions should be directed to the Auction Bidder Line. Time-sensitive technical issues should be directed to the FCC Auctions Technical Support Hotline.**

39. For more general questions about Auction 110, please refer to the contact information provided in Section VII (Contact Information), below.

V. APPLICANTS' CONTINUING OBLIGATIONS

A. Duty to Maintain Accurate Information in Short-Form Applications

40. We remind applicants that sections 1.65 and 1.2105(b)(4) of the Commission's rules require that they maintain the accuracy and completeness of information furnished in their applications to participate in Auction 110.²⁰ Each applicant should amend its application to furnish additional or corrected information within five business days of a significant occurrence, or no more than five business days after the applicant becomes aware of the need for amendment.²¹ All changes are subject to review by Commission staff.

41. An applicant that needs to make permissible minor changes to its FCC Form 175,²² or that must make changes in order to maintain the accuracy and completeness of its short-form application, must do so electronically using the FCC auction application system during a time when the FCC auction application system is available to the applicant for purposes of making the type of change(s) required.²³ The applicant must also submit a letter briefly summarizing the change(s) to its FCC Form 175 by email to auCTION110@fcc.gov to the attention of the Chief, Auctions Division, Office of Economics and Analytics. The letter summarizing the change(s) must include a subject or caption referring to Auction 110 and the name of the applicant, for example, "Re: Changes to Auction 110 Application of XYZ Corp." Any attachments to the email must be formatted as Adobe® Acrobat® (PDF) or Microsoft® Word documents. An applicant must not submit application-specific material through the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System.

42. For more information on an applicant's continuing obligation to maintain the accuracy and completeness of information furnished in its application to participate in Auction 110, applicants

¹⁹ To access the *Messages* feature, select the Messages link on the navigation pane of the bidding system. For information on how to use this feature, see the Auction 110 Clock Phase Bidding System User Guide.

²⁰ See 47 CFR §§ 1.65, 1.2105(b)(4).

²¹ See *id.* at §§ 1.65, 1.2105(b)(4).

²² As described in the Commission's rules, an applicant may make only minor corrections to its short-form application (e.g., changing certain contact information or authorized bidder information). See *id.* at § 1.2105(b)(2). A major modification includes a change in license area selection, newly claimed or increased bidding credit, or change in control of the applicant. *Id.*; see also, e.g., *Koch Broadcasting Corp.*, Letter Order, 21 FCC Rcd 147 (WTB/MB 2006) (dismissing short-form application due to major amendment reporting change of control of applicant).

²³ An applicant should not use the auction application system outside of the resubmission filing window to make changes to its short-form application for other than administrative changes. An applicant retains electronic access to its FCC Form 175 to make certain administrative changes, including updates to: applicant address, responsible party information, and contact information. Auction applicants are not permitted to make a change to the following data fields after the short-form application filing deadline: applicant name, legal classification, certifier, bidding credit, and license area selection.

should refer to previous Auction 110 public notices, including the *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice*.²⁴

B. Due Diligence

43. Each potential bidder is solely responsible for investigating and evaluating all legal, technical, and marketplace factors and risks associated with the licenses that it is seeking in Auction 110.²⁵ The Commission makes no representations or warranties about the use of this spectrum or these licenses for particular services. Each applicant should be aware that a Commission auction represents an opportunity to become a Commission licensee, subject to certain conditions and regulations. This includes the established authority of the Commission to alter the terms of existing licenses by rulemaking, which is equally applicable to licenses awarded by auction.²⁶ A Commission auction does not constitute an endorsement by the Commission of any particular service, technology, or product, nor does a Commission license constitute a guarantee of business success. Accordingly, each qualified bidder is encouraged to review the Commission's previous guidance concerning bidders' due diligence efforts prior to and during the auction.²⁷

44. An applicant should perform its due diligence research and analysis before proceeding, as it would with any new business venture. In particular, the Commission continues to encourage each potential bidder to perform technical analyses and/or refresh its previous analyses to assure itself that, should it become a winning bidder for any Auction 110 license, it will be able to build and operate facilities that will fully comply with all applicable technical and legal requirements.²⁸ Each applicant should inspect any prospective sites for communications facilities located in, or near, the geographic area for which it plans to bid, confirm the availability of such sites, and to familiarize itself with the Commission's rules regarding any applicable federal, state, and local requirements.²⁹

45. The Commission has also encouraged each applicant in Auction 110 to continue to conduct its own research throughout the auction in order to determine the existence of pending or future administrative or judicial proceedings that might affect its decision on continued participation in the auction.³⁰ Each applicant is responsible for assessing the likelihood of the various possible outcomes and for considering the potential impact on licenses available in an auction. The due diligence considerations mentioned in this Public Notice and previous Auction 110 public notices do not constitute an exhaustive list of steps that should be undertaken prior to participating in Auction 110. As always, the burden is on the potential bidder to determine how much research to undertake, depending upon the specific facts and circumstances related to its interests. By way of example, applicants should pay particular attention to the framework adopted in the *3.45 GHz Second Report and Order* that requires new flexible-use licensees to

²⁴ See *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 35-37, paras. 99-107; see also 47 CFR §§ 1.65, 1.2105(b)(4). Questions about FCC Form 175 amendments should be directed to the Auctions Division at (202) 418-0660 or by email to auction110@fcc.gov.

²⁵ *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 37, para. 108.

²⁶ See, e.g., *Cellco P'ship v. FCC*, 700 F.3d 534, 542 (D.C. Cir. 2012); *Celtronix Telemetry, Inc. v. FCC*, 272 F.3d 585, 589 (D.C. Cir. 2001) (citing 47 U.S.C. § 309(j)(6)(D)).

²⁷ *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 37-44, paras. 108-130.

²⁸ *Id.* at 37, para. 109.

²⁹ See *id.* at 37, 42-43, paras. 109, 127; see also 47 CFR Part 1, Subpart I; *Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment*, WT Docket No. 17-79, Second Report and Order, 33 FCC Rcd 3102 (2018) (amending the Commission's rules concerning the types of deployments that are subject to review pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act).

³⁰ *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 38, para. 110.

reimburse secondary, non-federal radiolocation operations for the relocation costs associated with their transitions into the 2.9-3.0 GHz band³¹ and cooperative sharing requirements for certain licenses.³²

46. Applicants are solely responsible for identifying associated risks and for investigating and evaluating the degree to which such matters may affect their ability to bid on, otherwise acquire, or make use of the licenses available in Auction 110.³³ Each potential bidder is responsible for undertaking research to ensure that any licenses won in the auction will be suitable for its business plans and needs. Each potential bidder must undertake its own assessment of the relevance and importance of information gathered as part of its due diligence efforts.

47. The Commission makes no representations or guarantees regarding the accuracy or completeness of information in its databases or any third-party databases, including, for example, court docketing systems.³⁴ To the extent the Commission's databases may not include all information deemed necessary or desirable by an applicant, it must obtain or verify such information from independent sources or assume the risk of any incompleteness or inaccuracy in said databases.

C. Prohibition of Certain Communications

48. All applicants are encouraged to review the Commission's rules prohibiting certain communications set forth in section 1.2105(c) of the Commission's rules which apply to each applicant that filed a short-form application (FCC Form 175) in Auction 110, as well as its previous guidance concerning that prohibition.³⁵ Section 1.2105(c)(1) provides that, subject to specified exceptions, after the deadline for filing a short-form application, "all applicants are prohibited from cooperating or collaborating with respect to, communicating with or disclosing, to each other or any nationwide provider [of communications services] that is not an applicant, or, if the applicant is a nationwide provider, any non-nationwide provider that is not an applicant, in any manner the substance of their own, or each other's, or any other applicants' bids or bidding strategies (including post-auction market structure), or discussing or negotiating settlement agreements, until after the down payment deadline[.]"³⁶ An "applicant" for purposes of this rule includes all "controlling interests" in the entity submitting the FCC Form 175 auction application, as well as all holders of interests amounting to 10% or more of the entity, and all officers and directors of that entity.³⁷ AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon are the "nationwide providers" for purposes of this rule in Auction 110.³⁸

49. This prohibition took effect based on FCC Form 175 filings as of the short-form application filing deadline, which for Auction 110 was Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. ET, and ends at the post-auction down payment deadline for Auction 110, which will be announced in a future public notice.³⁹ **This prohibition applies to all applicants regardless of whether such applicants have**

³¹ See *Facilitating Shared Use in the 3100-3550 MHz Band*, WT Docket No. 19-348, Second Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, and Order of Proposed Modification, 36 FCC Rcd 5987, 6044-45, paras. 160-65 (Mar. 18, 2021) (*3.45 GHz Second Report and Order*).

³² See *id.* at 11-22, paras. 20-57

³³ *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 38, para. 112.

³⁴ Furthermore, the Commission makes no representations or guarantees regarding the accuracy or completeness of information that has been provided by incumbent licensees and incorporated into its databases. *Id.* at 38-39, para. 113.

³⁵ 47 CFR § 1.2105(c); see also *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 16-21, paras. 43-64.

³⁶ 47 CFR § 1.2105(c)(1).

³⁷ *Id.* § 1.2105(c)(5)(i); see also *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 16, para. 44.

³⁸ *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 16, para. 45.

become qualified bidders or actually bid in Auction 110.⁴⁰ For further information on the prohibition, applicants should refer to Section II.G of the *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice*.⁴¹

50. The prohibition of “communicating in any manner” includes public disclosures as well as private communications and indirect or implicit communications of bids and bidding strategies. Consequently, an applicant must take care to determine whether its auction-related communications may reach another applicant and must take care not to communicate non-public information to the public, financial analysts, or the press.⁴² Examples of communications raising concern, given the limited information procedures in effect for Auction 110, would include an applicant’s statement to the press or other public statement (such as a post on social media) about its upfront payment or bidding eligibility, and an applicant’s statement to the press or other public statement that it is or is not interested in bidding in the auction.

51. *Disclosure Obligations.* Section 1.2105(c)(4) requires each auction applicant that makes or receives a communication that appears to violate section 1.2105(c) to report the communication in writing to the Commission 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 sections 1.65 and 1.2105(b)(4).⁴³ Each applicant’s obligation to report any such communication continues beyond the five-day period after the communication is made, even if the report is not made within the five-day period.⁴⁴

52. *Reporting Prohibited Communication.* Any party reporting any communication pursuant to sections 1.65, 1.2105(b)(4), or 1.2105(c)(4) must take care to ensure that the report does not itself give rise to a violation of section 1.2105(c). To minimize the risk of inadvertent dissemination of a report of a potential prohibited communication, section 1.2105(c)(4) requires a party to file only a single report with the Chief of the Auctions Division in OEA.⁴⁵ For Auction 110, any such report must be filed according to the instructions set forth in the *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice*.⁴⁶

53. *Possible Sanctions.* Any applicant found to have violated section 1.2105(c) of the Commission’s rules may be subject to sanctions.⁴⁷ In addition, we remind each applicant that it is subject

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³⁹ *Id.* at 17, para. 46; *see also* 47 CFR § 1.2105(c)(1).

⁴⁰ *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 16, para. 44 & n.101.

⁴¹ *See id.* at 16-23, paras. 43-68.

⁴² The Commission has long expressed the concern that applicants should use caution in their dealings with other parties, such as members of the press, financial analysts, or others who might become a conduit for the communication of non-public information relating to auctions, such as bids and bidding strategies. *See Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Responds to Questions About the Local Multipoint Distribution Service Auction*, Public Notice, 13 FCC Rcd 341, 347-48 (WTB 1998) (“Public statements can give rise to collusion concerns. This has occurred in the antitrust context, where certain public statements can support other evidence which tends to indicate the existence of a conspiracy.”).

⁴³ 47 CFR §§ 1.65, 1.2105(b)(4); *see also Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission’s Rules – Competitive Bidding Procedures*, WT Docket No. 97-82, Seventh Report and Order, 16 FCC Rcd 17546, 17553-55, paras. 13-17 (2001).

⁴⁴ 47 CFR § 1.2105(b)(4); *see also Service Rules for the 698-746, 747-762 and 777-792 MHz Bands*, WT Docket No. 06-150 *et al.*, Second Report and Order, 22 FCC Rcd 15289, 15395, paras. 285-86 (2007).

⁴⁵ 47 CFR § 1.2105(c)(4); *see also Procedural Amendments to Commission Part 1 Competitive Bidding Rules*, WT Docket No. 10-18, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 521, 522, para. 4 (2010).

⁴⁶ *See Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 21, paras. 62-64.

⁴⁷ *See* 47 CFR §§ 1.2105(c), 1.2109(d).

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 or the Commission's rules in connection with its participation in the competitive bidding process, it may be subject to forfeiture of its upfront payment, down payment, or full bid amount, and it may be prohibited from participating in future auctions, among other sanctions.⁴⁸

D. Limited Information Procedures

54. We remind applicants that, under the limited information procedures in effect for Auction 110 (sometimes also referred to as anonymous bidding), the Commission is withholding from public release, until after the close of bidding in Auction 110, any information that may indicate specific applicants' interests in the auction—including, among other things, license area selections, upfront payments and eligibility information, and the identities of bidders placing bids or taking other bidding-related actions.⁴⁹ Accordingly, communication with other applicants or public disclosure of such non-public information may violate the Commission's rule prohibiting certain communications, section 1.2105(c) of the Commission's rules.

E. Submission of Auction-Related Filings

55. A party wishing to submit a request, a complaint, or other information concerning Auction 110 should, in addition to following other procedures prescribed by the Commission's rules, send a copy by email to auction110@fcc.gov to the attention of the Chief, Auctions Division, Office of Economics and Analytics. We occasionally receive complaints regarding specific bidders and requests to suspend bidding during an auction. While we reserve the right to take appropriate action during an auction to preserve the integrity of the auction process, it is generally our practice to address any such allegations only after a winning bidder has submitted its long-form application, when there is greater opportunity for investigation of such allegations, if warranted. The Commission will not investigate any complaints or allegations that are not accompanied by full contact information, including name, address, and telephone number, for the complaining party or parties.

F. Ex Parte Rule

56. Applicants should also be aware that the Commission has generally treated mutually exclusive short-form applications as exempt proceedings and, therefore, not subject to the *ex parte* prohibitions that pertain to restricted proceedings.⁵⁰

VI. POST-AUCTION PROCEDURES

57. To ensure prompt receipt of time-sensitive Commission communications, we urge each applicant to verify now the accuracy and completeness of the information for its contact in its FCC Form 175. Corrections to contact information in an FCC Form 175 should be made promptly in preparation for post-auction procedures.

58. Shortly after bidding has ended, we will release a public notice declaring the auction closed and establishing the deadlines for submitting down payments and final payments. As outlined in the *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice*, the deadline for submitting down payments will be the later of January 7, 2022, or 10 business days following the release of the public notice declaring the auction

⁴⁸ See *id.* § 1.2109(d).

⁴⁹ *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 15-16, paras. 37-42.

⁵⁰ 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); 47 CFR § 1.1202(d)(1) Note 1.

closed.⁵¹ Final payments will be due 10 business days after the deadline for submitting down payments for this auction.

59. Additional information regarding these post-auction procedures is contained in the *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* and will be provided in the public notice announcing the winning bidders.⁵²

VII. CONTACT INFORMATION

60. Additional information for applicants is available at the Auction 110 website (www.fcc.gov/auction/110).

61. For further information concerning Auction 110, please contact:

General Auction Information

General Auction Questions

FCC Auctions Hotline

(888) 225-5322, option two; or
(717) 338-2868

Auction 110 Process and Procedures

Bidding Procedures
Auction Schedule

Auctions Division, OEA

Auctions Hotline (717) 338-2868

Auction 110 Legal Information

Auction Rules, Policies, Regulations, including
Reports Pursuant to Section 1.2105(c) and
Application Modifications

Auctions Division, OEA

(202) 418-0660
Mary Lovejoy
Andrew McArdell

Licensing Information

Service Rules, Policies, Regulations
Licensing Issues, Engineering Issues
Due Diligence, Incumbency Issues

Mobility Division, WTB

(202) 418-1327
Joyce Jones

Engineering Issues

Office of Engineering and Technology
Ira Keltz at (202) 418-0616

Technical Support

Hardware/Software Issues with Electronic Filing
or FCC Auction System

FCC Auctions Technical Support Hotline

(877) 480-3201, option nine; or (202) 414-1250
(202) 414-1255 (TTY)
Hours of service: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET,
Monday through Friday

Payment Information

Instructions for Wiring Upfront Payments and
Completing Form 159
Refunds

FCC Revenue & Receivables Operations Group/Auctions

Scott Radcliffe at (202) 418-7518 or
Theresa Meeks at (202) 418-2945
(202) 418-2843 (fax) or email to
RROGWireFaxes@fcc.gov

⁵¹ See *Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice* at 69-70, para. 253.

⁵² See *id.* at 69-73, paras. 252-67; 47 CFR §§ 1.2107, 1.2109(a).

News Media

Press Questions

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

Cecilia Sulhoff at (202) 418-0587 or email to
Cecilia.Sulhoff@fcc.gov

62. To request materials in accessible formats (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) for people with disabilities, send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 or (202) 418-0432 (TTY).

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