



# NEWS

**Federal Communications Commission**  
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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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## **SECOND 700 MHZ GUARD BAND SPECTRUM AUCTION CLOSES**

Washington, D.C. – A Federal Communications Commission 700 MHz Guard Band auction (No. 38) ended on Wednesday, February 21, 2001, raising total net revenue of \$20,916,500.00.

The Guard Band Manager is a new class of commercial licensee engaged solely in the business of leasing spectrum to third parties on a for-profit basis. The Guard Band Manager may subdivide its spectrum in any manner it chooses and make it available to system operators, or directly to end users for fixed or mobile (cellular system architecture is prohibited from operating in this band) communications. The Guard Band Manager will be required to adhere to strict frequency coordination and interference rules, and control use of the spectrum so as to facilitate protection for the adjacent public safety bands.

This auction began on February 13, 2001, and ended after 38 rounds of bidding. Eight unsold licenses from the first Guard Band auction, No. 33, were offered in eight Major Economic Areas (MEAs). By Congressional direction in 1997, the Commission reallocated thirty-six megahertz of spectrum for commercial use including fixed, mobile, and broadcasting services. Six of the thirty-six megahertz have been identified as Guard Bands to provide protection to public safety users.

Winning bidders must make down payments on licenses within 10 business days after the release of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Public Notice announcing the close of the auction. Winning bidders must also file their long form applications with the FCC within the same period. Further details about this and other FCC auctions can be accessed via the FCC's homepage at: <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/auctions/>.

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