



NEWS

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FCC CHAIRMAN MICHAEL POWELL PRAISES FCC ENGINEERS BEING HONORED BY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS

Washington, D.C. – FCC Chairman Michael Powell today lauded the accomplishments of two FCC engineers, Mr. Robert P. Eckert and Mr. John Reiser, who today received Engineering Achievement Awards from the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB). These awards are given to individuals for significant contributions that have advanced broadcast engineering.

Powell said, “I am especially pleased that Bob Eckert and John Reiser are the recipients of these engineering achievement awards, recognizing their leadership, hard work, and creativity. Their efforts significantly advanced the ball in the broadcast arena – Bob, for his work in spectrum planning and facilitating the DTV transition, and John, for his work improving broadcast regulations and effectively advocating the U.S. position on these issues in international fora. The American public has been and will be the ultimate beneficiary of their technical vision. I am thankful that they chose to devote their careers to public service.”

Mr. Eckert will receive the NAB Television Engineering Achievement Award. He joined the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) in 1980 and currently serves as Branch Chief, Technical Analysis Branch, Electromagnetic Compatibility Division. For much of this time, Mr. Eckert has specialized in radio propagation studies, analyzing spectrum efficiency, and designing frequency assignment algorithms. Most significantly, he was responsible for spectrum planning for advanced television and, indeed, was one of the principal architects of the original DTV allotment plan. Mr. Eckert also developed algorithms to assign DTV channels and to evaluate coverage and interference issues. He received his bachelor’s degree in physics from Georgetown University. Before joining the FCC, Mr. Eckert worked in the private sector as a communications engineer for Kelly Scientific Corporation and Philco-Ford.

Mr. Reiser will receive the NAB Radio Engineering Achievement Award. He retired from the FCC in 2000 after a long and distinguished government career. Mr. Reiser first joined the FCC at its Detroit Field Office, then transferred to the FCC Buffalo Field Office as Engineer-in-Charge. Mr. Reiser later came to Washington, D.C. as a Senior Engineer in the FCC Broadcast Bureau, thereafter, the Mass Media Bureau, and in 1994, was selected to join the Radio Communication Policy Branch of the FCC International Bureau. For many years, Mr. Reiser led U.S. efforts in various multilateral fora to develop international standards for television and sound broadcast stations on terrestrial and satellite platforms and served as the head of numerous U.S. Delegations. Mr. Reiser’s expertise began at the University of Michigan,

where he received a B.S. in electrical engineering and was Chief Engineer at a local AM radio station.

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