



NEWS

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See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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FCC Announces Close to Unprecedented FM Auction **-110 Bidders Win 258 Construction Permits for New FM Stations-**

Washington, DC -- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announces the close of Auction No. 37, in which 110 bidders won 258 FM broadcast construction permits. Many of the winning bidders are new entrants into the radio broadcast market. The auction began on November 3, 2004, and closed on November 23, 2004, after 62 rounds of bidding.

The auction was the first-ever open auction of FM broadcast spectrum held by the FCC, and hundreds participated in the bidding process. The FCC plans to hold annual auctions for more FM construction permits over the next several years.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell said, "We are in new territory with this groundbreaking auction, introducing new owners into the radio market and bringing increased diversity through new FM radio stations to cities and towns that have not had their own local stations. By placing small businesses on equal footing with other bidders at the auction stage, our policies ensure that more owners have the opportunity to become pioneers in the dynamic media marketplace. I would like to congratulate both the Media and Wireless Bureaus for their hard work in making this auction a success."

In 1997 Congress mandated the use of competitive bidding procedures for commercial broadcast station licensing. The auction signifies the continuing strong demand for radio broadcast spectrum. The FM allotments are for cities all over the country such as Hanapepe, HI, Carmel, CA, Augusta, KS, Lennox, SD, and Nassawadox, VA, though most of the permits will be issued for smaller communities in the West. Signal strength of the stations will vary from 3,000 watts to 100,000 watts, based on the classification of the license. A full list of the winning bidders and markets is available at the FCC website: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/auctions>.

After final payments are made and construction permits issued, winning bidders will be given three years to complete construction of the new stations and begin providing FM service to their communities. The 110 winning bidders will submit payments of \$147.4 million dollars during the next several months for the 258 construction permits that were won.

The FCC will release a Public Notice detailing the next steps that winning bidders must take to complete the auction process and receive the construction permits.