



# NEWS

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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. Circ 1974).

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## **COMMISSION FACILITATES PROVISION OF UBIQUITOUS MOBILE SATELLITE SERVICES TO U.S. CONSUMERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS**

Washington, D.C.- Today, the Federal Communications Commission reaffirmed its decision to allow satellite operators to integrate Ancillary Terrestrial Components (ATC) to existing Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) systems and modified the rules governing ATC to facilitate provision of improved services to U.S. consumers and public safety officials. The modified rules will give MSS operators more flexibility in designing and operating their networks, while continuing to provide other MSS operators protection from harmful interference.

The Memorandum Opinion and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration (MO&O) adopted today addresses petitions for reconsideration of certain existing licensing procedures and interference rules related to MSS/ATC. In the MO&O, the Commission:

- reaffirmed requirements that MSS operators must provide substantial, commercially-available, sustainable MSS service over their entire geographic coverage areas, and must provide fully integrated MSS/ATC;
- changed the interference rules in the L-band (1525-1559 MHz and 1626.5-1650.5 MHz), to allow MSS/ATC operators more flexibility to design and implement their systems according to market needs;
- denied requests to reconsider the decision not to assign ATC authority by auction; and
- clarified the licensing rules to allow pre-operational MSS licensees demonstrating that they will meet our gating criteria when they do deploy their satellites to simultaneously begin MSS and ATC services.

Today's decision will facilitate deployment of MSS/ATC systems that promise consumers and public safety providers reliable, nationwide mobile services where and when they are needed using a single interoperable handset.

Action by the Commission February 10, 2005, by Memorandum, Opinion, and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration (FCC 05-30). Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Martin, and Adelstein, with Commissioner Copps approving and concurring in part. Separate statement issued by Chairman Powell and Commissioner Copps

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