

Media Contact: Will Wiquist, (202) 418-0509 will.wiquist@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

FCC TAKES ACTION AGAINST COMPANIES THAT INTERFERED WITH FAA WEATHER RADAR IN PUERTO RICO

Agency Proposes Fines & Issues Enforcement Advisory to Warn Wireless Internet Service Providers

WASHINGTON, August 22, 2019— The Federal Communications Commission's Enforcement Bureau today announced proposed fines and issued a formal industry warning related to devices that apparently caused interference to the Federal Aviation Administration's terminal doppler weather radar station in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Enforcement Bureau proposed three separate \$25,000 fines against wireless Internet service providers Boom Solutions, Integra Wireless, and WinPR.

The companies used Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure devices for point-to-point wireless broadband communication. In each case, the companies apparently misconfigured the devices by turning off a required feature that would have prevented the devices from causing interference to the FAA terminal doppler weather radar station at San Juan International Airport. Interference to these weather radar stations, which are used to detect wind shear and other dangerous weather conditions, is potentially life threatening.

In addition to the proposed fines, the Bureau's Enforcement Advisory warned operators, manufacturers, and marketers of Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure devices that these devices must be certified under FCC rules. Such devices that operate in the 5.25 GHz to 5.35 GHz and 5.47 GHz to 5.725 GHz bands risk interfering with radar systems if not properly configured to share the spectrum.

The proposed actions, formally called Notices of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture, or NALs, contain only allegations that advise parties on how they have apparently violated the law and may set forth a proposed monetary penalty. The Commission may not impose a greater monetary penalty in these cases than the amounts proposed in the NALs. Neither the allegations nor the proposed sanctions in the NALs are final Commission actions. The parties will be given an opportunity to respond and the Commission will consider the parties' submission of evidence and legal arguments before acting further to resolve these matters.

The Enforcement Advisory entitled "Enforcement Bureau Takes Actions to Counter Interference to FAA Terminal Doppler Weather Radar Station" is available at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-19-807A1.pdf

The Notice of Apparent Liability sent to Boom Solutions is available at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-19-801A1.pdf

The Notice of Apparent Liability sent to Integra Wireless is available at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-19-802A1.pdf

The Notice of Apparent Liability sent to WinPR is available at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-19-803A1.pdf

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Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / TTY: (888) 835-5322 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov

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).