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For Immediate Release**FCC ACTS TO FREE UP C-BAND SPECTRUM FOR 5G SERVICES*****Makes 280 Megahertz of the 3.7-4.2 GHz Band Available for 5G Services While Relocating Existing Satellite Operations to the Upper Part of the Band***

WASHINGTON, February 28, 2020—The Federal Communications Commission today adopted new rules to auction and make available quickly and efficiently 280 megahertz of mid-band spectrum for flexible use, including 5G. Making this critical spectrum available represents another important step to closing the digital divide, especially in rural areas, and secures U.S. leadership in 5G.

Today's action makes a wide swath of mid-band spectrum available for 5G through a public auction. As a result, this valuable spectrum will be available quickly, while generating substantial revenue for the United States Treasury. At the same time, the item ensures the continuous and uninterrupted delivery of video programming services and other content to the American people that is currently delivered by satellites using the C-band.

Within the 3.7-4.2 GHz band, the FCC has is allocating the 3.7-4.0 GHz portion of the band for mobile use and 280 megahertz (3.7-3.98 GHz band) will be auctioned by the FCC for wireless services in the contiguous United States. Another 20 megahertz (3.98-4.0 GHz) will serve as a guard band while existing satellite operations will be repacked into the upper 200 megahertz of the band (4.0-4.2 GHz).

This 280 megahertz of spectrum will be transitioned to flexible use no later than December 5, 2025. Under the Report and Order, eligible space station operators will be able to receive accelerated relocation payments totaling \$9.7 billion if they commit to, and succeed in, clearing the spectrum early. To be eligible for Phase I payments, operators must clear 120 megahertz of spectrum (3.7-3.82 GHz) in 46 Partial Economic Areas by December 5, 2021. To be eligible for Phase II payments, they must clear the remaining 180 megahertz of spectrum (3.82-4.0 GHz) by December 5, 2023; new flexible-use licensees will be responsible for these payments as well as reasonable relocation costs.

The FCC is creating a Relocation Payment Clearinghouse to manage this process as well as oversee relocation funds available to incumbents. The FCC is also creating a Relocation Coordinator to migrate incumbent earth stations that receive content from space station operators to ensure uninterrupted service during and following the transition.

The FCC also adopted service and technical rules for the flexible-use licensees and rules that require incumbent fixed microwave services licensees to relocate their point-to-point links to other bands by December 5, 2023.

The action taken by the Commission today is a critical step in implementing our comprehensive 5G FAST Plan, as it will rapidly put mid-band spectrum into the hands of innovators and consumers and pave the way for the United States to lead the world in 5G deployment. This action also will meet the Commission's mandate under the MOBILE NOW Act to identify spectrum for mobile and fixed wireless broadband use.

Action by the Commission February 28, 2020 by Report and Order and Proposed Order of Modification (FCC 20-22). Chairman Pai, Commissioners O'Rielly and Carr. Commissioners Rosenworcel and Starks dissenting. Chairman Pai, Commissioners O'Rielly, Carr, Rosenworcel, and Starks issuing separate statements.

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