International Bureau Accomplishments 2017-2020

January 13, 2021
Bridging the Digital Divide - Promoting Satellite Connectivity

Paved the way for high-speed broadband to be provided by non-geostationary orbit satellite constellations with approvals for 11 companies:

- OneWeb (June 2017 and August 2020)
- Space Norway (November 2017)
- Telesat Canada (November 2017 and November 2018)
- SpaceX (March 2018 and November 2018)
- Audacy (June 2018)
- O3b (June 2018)
- Karousel (August 2018)
- Kepler (November 2018)
- Theia (May 2019)
- ViaSat (April 2020)
- Kuiper (July 2020)
Promoting Innovation and Investment – Streamlining and Updating Regulations

• Established a new streamlined optional application process for small satellites with short duration missions.

• Updated FCC rules and expanded frequencies available for Earth Stations in Motion (ESIMs) communicating with GSO networks and established rules for ESIMs’ communications with NGSO networks.

• Streamlined the rules and licensing options for satellite operators.

• Developed robust rules to mitigate orbital debris and sought comment on additional steps.
Promoting Innovation and Investment – Streamlining and Updating Regulations

• Reformed Team Telecom processes for foreign ownership review.

• Process reforms will:
  • provide for more efficient and effective review of national security, law enforcement, and trade and foreign policy implications of foreign investment in our communications sector;
  • improve our teamwork by aligning the FCC’s rules with reforms adopted by the Executive Branch;
  • help us strike the right balance, encouraging foreign investment and ownership in the U.S. communications sector while limiting or barring transactions that could impair the national interest.
Enhancing Public Safety – National Security

• Scrutiny of applications and authorizations by companies with Chinese government ownership:
  – China Mobile USA
  – Orders to Show Cause
    • China Telecom Americas
    • China Unicom Americas
    • Pacific Networks, and ComNet
  – Started process for determining whether to revoke and terminate China Telecom’s authority to operate in the United States
• With PSHSB, improved outage reporting obligations of submarine cable licensees to promote public safety and national security.
Enhancing Public Safety – 5G Security Advocacy

• Prague 5G Security Conference:
  – May 2019: 32 countries, including the United States, adopted the Prague Proposals establishing a framework for 5G security
  – September 2020: Second (virtual) summit addressed ongoing issues

• FCC role in whole-of-government outreach effort:
  – Chairman visited senior officials in several countries to advance 5G security and supply chain integrity, including:

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International Advocacy and Leadership
International Advocacy and Leadership
WRC Outcomes

- 17.25 gigahertz of spectrum identified for International Mobile Telecommunications, giving governments the flexibility to use it for 5G.
  - only 1.9 gigahertz had been available before WRC-19
- Identified significant amount of spectrum for High Altitude Platform Systems at regional and global level.
- Adopted a number of regulatory improvements to permit expanded use by Non Geostationary Satellite Orbit systems
- Adopted regulatory and technical conditions for the three types of ESIM communicating with geostationary (GSO) space stations in the fixed-satellite service (FSS).
- Successfully expanded the provision of a truly global maritime distress and safety system.
IB By the Numbers

2017-2020:

• 221 international Section 214 authorizations granted
• 10,872 bilateral, regional and international notifications for terrestrial broadcast and non-broadcast services processed
• 11,605 satellite earth station applications processed
• 548 satellite space station applications processed
• 1,162 visitors welcomed through International Visitors Program from 106 countries

C-Band milestones:

• Reviewed nearly 6,900 C-band earth station applications filed during the 6-month waiver window in 2018, encompassing more than 23,000 earth station antennas throughout the 50 states and U.S. Territories
• Reviewed 1,500 lump sum elections in six weeks last fall and accepted elections for more than 12,500 incumbent earth station antennas