



NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FCC Moves Closer to its Next Spectrum Auction

Commission's Rules for AWS-3 Auction Pave the Way for Approximately 200 Spectrum Licenses to Come to Market

WASHINGTON, July 24, 2025—The Federal Communications Commission today voted to update its competitive bidding rules to enable the upcoming auction of AWS-3 spectrum licenses.

The AWS-3 auction—the first in many years—will benefit consumers and the U.S. economy by unlocking more of the invisible airwaves that connect communities. The auction proceeds will fund the Commission's ongoing efforts to protect American networks from untrustworthy and insecure foreign equipment.

Over the last 30 years, FCC spectrum auctions have been instrumental in making the United States a global pioneer in wireless. In 2014, the Commission auctioned AWS-3 spectrum licenses for commercial use, but certain winning bidders defaulted soon after. As a result, approximately 200 licenses have remained unused in the FCC's inventory for nearly a decade. With today's decision, the Commission comes closer to putting those spectrum licenses to productive use. In the weeks and months ahead, the Commission will announce auction application deadlines and bidding procedures.

Today's order adopts updates to AWS-3 bidding credit rules in auctions to reflect legislative and regulatory developments since the spectrum was originally auctioned in 2014. These updates to bidding credit thresholds will allow small businesses and rural service providers to participate meaningfully in the auction. The AWS-3 bands refer to spectrum between 1695-1710 MHz, 1755-1780 MHz, and 2155-2180 MHz.

Action by the Commission July 24, 2025 by Report and Order and Second Report and Order (FCC 25-39). Chairman Carr and Commissioner Trusty approving. Commissioner Gomez approving in part and concurring in part. Chairman Carr, Commissioners Gomez and Trusty issuing separate statements.

GN Docket Nos. 25-70, 25-71, 13-185

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