



NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FCC Looks to Cut Red Tape on Satellite Infrastructure Builds

Reforms Would Streamline Licensing for Earth Stations Connecting to Space

WASHINGTON, October 28, 2025—As part of “Space Month,” the Federal Communications Commission today proposed comprehensive siting reforms for earth stations—the antennas on Earth that connect to the satellites in orbit—in the upper microwave (UMFUS) spectrum bands. This proceeding continues the Commission’s *Final Frontiers* agenda to rethink legacy regulations from first principles so that America’s space innovators can continue to build and win on the global stage.

The FCC’s proposal takes a fresh look at the Commission’s rules for siting earth stations in the UMFUS bands to support the booming demand for satellite connectivity in critical areas of the country. It proposes to cut red tape that prevents space companies from licensing and building critical infrastructure here on Earth.

The UMFUS bands (24 GHz, 28 GHz, upper 37 GHz, 39 GHz, 47 GHz, and 50 GHz bands) are shared between terrestrial and satellite operators. In 2016, the FCC adopted rules to allow both services to share the UMFUS bands, based on the state of wireless and satellite technologies at the time. Since then, the space economy has dwarfed all expectations, particularly as the demand for ground infrastructure has exploded.

Today’s Notice would seek to revamp the Commission’s siting rules to reflect today’s rapidly growing and changing space economy. It also seeks input on ways to encourage more intensive use of the UMFUS bands and make licensing processes more efficient.

The FCC has been focused throughout the year on supporting America’s booming space economy, a central pillar of the FCC’s Build America Agenda. The FCC aims to make sure that the United States is the friendliest regulatory environment in the world for people to start, grow, or accelerate their space operations.

Action by the Commission October 28, 2025 by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 25-70). Chairman Carr, Commissioners Gomez and Trusty approving. Chairman Carr and Commissioner Trusty issuing separate statements.

SB Docket No. 25-305

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