



NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FCC Plans FM Radio Auction

First Auction of FM Radio Construction Permits Since Auction Authority Was Restored Will Start in Early 2027

WASHINGTON, May 11, 2026—The Federal Communications Commission today announced its plan to auction FM radio construction permits starting in February 2027. Auction 114 would make available for bidding construction permits for vacant FM radio channels. The FCC plays a critical role in managing commercial radio spectrum bands like those used by broadcasters in the public interest.

Chairman Brendan Carr issued the following statement:

“This FM auction is another step toward expanding opportunities for new voices and strengthening competition in the radio marketplace. We’re pleased to open the door to additional growth and innovation—and to deliver real value for taxpayers through a strong auction process. The FCC has a responsibility to ensure that spectrum is put to its highest and best use, and today’s action advances that mission.

“I want to thank our outstanding Auctions Division and Media Bureau teams for their work on this auction. It is because of their expertise and dedication that an auction like this can happen, even as both teams work to achieve other major Commission priorities, including the upcoming AWS-3 and Upper C-band auctions and the streamlining and modernization of outdated broadcast regulations.”

Additional Background Information:

The 2027 FM radio auction, formally designated Auction 114, will offer 132 construction permits in the FM broadcast service, including nearly 100 not previously offered.

In a Public Notice issued today by the Office of Economics and Analytics’ Auctions Division and the Media Bureau, the FCC is seeking comment on its proposal to conduct the auction using a simultaneous multiple-round auction format. Commenters can weigh in on proposed procedures for the running of the auction, the timeline, minimum bid amounts for the respective available construction permits, and more. After the agency reviews this public record, it will formally adopt the final procedures for the FM auction.

This will be the first media auction conducted using the FCC’s new application and bidding systems. In January, the agency [launched](#) its new Auction Application System to improve auction efficiency and security. This new system was used to qualify bidders in this summer’s AWS-3 auction aimed at freeing up airwaves for 5G and other next-gen wireless services and funding the Commission’s ongoing efforts to protect American networks from untrustworthy and non-secure foreign equipment.

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