



NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FCC Kicks Off First Spectrum Auction in Four Years

AWS-3 Auction Offers 200 Spectrum Licenses for Wireless Services Around the Country – Including in Major Markets

WASHINGTON, June 2, 2026—FCC Chairman Brendan Carr today welcomed the start of the first FCC spectrum auction in four years. The AWS-3 auction will offer 200 5G-grade spectrum licenses that laid fallow for more than a decade. The license areas included in this auction are home to over 100 million consumers across 48 states, two US territories, and the Gulf of America. They include major markets like New York, Chicago, Boston, Tampa, and Charlotte.

Chairman Brendan Carr issued the following statement:

“Finally! The FCC is back in the game. Spectrum auctions are the lifeblood of licensed wireless service, and it has been far too long since the FCC has run an auction. Today, we are kicking off a vitally important auction to pump more spectrum into the marketplace. There is a reason why the first item the Commission voted on at my first meeting as Chairman was to get the process going for this very auction. More spectrum means more building, lower prices, and stronger competition. The FCC’s Build America Agenda is restoring America’s leadership in wireless.”

Additional Background Information:

Bidding in the AWS-3 auction, formally designated as Auction 113, began this morning. The auction makes available spectrum licenses in the 1695-1710 MHz, 1755-1780 MHz, and 2155-2180 MHz bands. The auction makes over 1.4 billion MHz-POPs (“Megahertz Population”) available for auction – a metric calculated by multiplying the bandwidth by the population covered by the licenses. The auction can be tracked at: <https://www.fcc.gov/auction/113>.

The auction started today utilizes [rules](#) the Commission proposed and adopted last year. The licenses made available had been auctioned in 2014 for commercial use, but were the subject of defaults or bid withdrawals. As a result, these 200 licenses were unsold in the prior auction and the spectrum has remained unused in the FCC’s inventory ever since. Today’s auction will put those spectrum licenses to productive use. The proceeds from this auction will fund the FCC’s Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program – commonly known as “rip and replace” – which seeks to remove untrustworthy technology from U.S. communications networks.

The FCC’s Build America Agenda is putting in the work to free up airwaves and restore the country’s leadership in wireless. The Commission is advancing 5G and 6G leadership by executing on a massive spectrum pipeline to deliver 800 megahertz of spectrum by 2034 set out in President Trump’s Working Families Tax Cut Act, which also restored the FCC’s auction authority. In the secondary markets, we are seeing large swaths of spectrum moving into the hands of competitors that can put it to productive use quickly. For more on the wireless leadership efforts in the Build America Agenda, visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/restoring-americas-leadership-wireless>.

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