

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI**

Re: *Fixed and Mobile Services in the Mobile Satellite Service Bands at 1525-1559 MHz and 1626.5-1660.5 MHz, 1610-1626.5 MHz and 2483.5-2500 MHz, and 2000-2020 MHz and 2180-2200 MHz, ET Docket No. 10-142.*

Today we launch a new spectrum flexibility initiative as part of our major effort to promote world-leading broadband infrastructure here in the United States, and to unleash the opportunities of wireless broadband.

Having world-leading wireless networks in the 21st Century will be essential to our global competitiveness. Achieving this goal of world leadership won't happen without action. In today's global economy, with the focus other countries are giving to the opportunities of broadband, to stand still is to fall behind. To achieve our goals, we must increase spectrum for wireless broadband and reduce needless regulatory obstacles to broadband deployment.

The item we vote on today is designed to accomplish both. Moving forward on a key initiative of the National Broadband Plan, today we begin the process of removing regulatory barriers to use of spectrum for terrestrial mobile wireless service in the mobile satellite service (MSS) bands. We need both ground-based and satellite-based mobile broadband. And we intend to modify our rules in a way that both expands terrestrial mobile broadband and ensures that America has a robust mobile satellite capability for rural areas and when disaster strikes.

Our action today flows from the National Broadband Plan, and is consistent with the recent Executive Memorandum, both of which recognize the importance of spectrum for our economy and call for an additional 500 MHz of spectrum for broadband. This proceeding will help make 90 megahertz of prime spectrum available for mobile broadband, while promoting efficient use of this spectrum, including including the use of secondary market leasing arrangements. Our action today also builds upon our recent approval of the transaction between Harbinger Capital Partners and SkyTerra Communications, which facilitated a multi-billion dollar commitment to invest in a new 4G wireless network. These are examples of our focus on FCC actions that will unleash private sector investment and innovation. This proceeding will open the door to exciting new opportunities in mobile—new networks, new devices, new competition and new technologies.

The mobile broadband revolution is upon us, with smartphones, netbooks, and other connected devices generating unprecedented capacity demands on our terrestrial wireless networks. We are seeing an exciting innovation-driven reinvention of wireless communications. This is how we've had significant job creation in the U.S. in the past – innovation and reinvention of industries, with small companies becoming big, and big companies becoming bigger, competing and creating jobs in a rapidly changing landscape. Today we take an important action to make our spectrum rules more flexible and increase the amount of spectrum available for mobile broadband. This will catalyze investment and spark innovation, create jobs, help increase broadband speeds and capacity, and take an important step to make sure that America has the spectrum it needs to lead the world in mobile.