

# **CSMAC Bi-Directional Sharing Working Group**

**Status Report**

**For Discussion at the CSMAC Meeting on December 13, 2013**

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## Progress To Date

- Working Group has met 5 times
  - Draft answers to NTIA questions well developed
  - Draft matrix prepared: taxonomy of the various inputs received, maps out the different approaches to spectrum access
    - classic auction approaches
    - secondary market/resale
  - Discussion on other inputs and presentations needed/desired

# Discussion on Questions

- **Question 1:** What methods can be used to allow federal agency access of non-federal bands, particularly for large, intermittent exercises and emergency use?
  - Three options outlined for ongoing discussion:
    - Federal agency access to a non-Federal network, property rights held by non-Federal license holder – no interference protection from primary users
    - Secondary easements by federal agency for use of “unused spectrum”
    - Property-like license rights by Federal agency, (Voluntary or Involuntary by incumbents)
- **Need more specific NTIA instruction (on time period, size of area, demographics, spectrum required, and nature of use) to recommend best possible options**

# Discussion on Questions

- **Question 2:** Would federal users be expected to pay for temporary spectrum access?
  - Threshold observation by WG is that answer is not a yes or no, but depends upon
    - nature of commercial spectrum
    - presence of incumbent operations
    - impact upon incumbent operations
    - period of time (temporary or perhaps permanent)

# Discussion on Questions

- **Question 3:** Would such access only be available if the nonfederal licensee does not have an immediate, short-term or long-term need to operate in the spectrum and location in question?
  - General conclusion by WG is that federal operations that conflict with the service needs of the incumbent nonfederal licensee should generally not be permitted
  - However, concluding whether conflict actually exists or whether alternative sharing solutions exist depends on several necessary considerations:
    - Geographically-restricted Operations
    - Feasible Temporal Sharing
    - Secondary Market Mechanisms
    - Service Provider Relationships

# Recommendations & Next Steps

- Working Group will continue to meet at least bi-weekly
- Refined recommendations should be completed in the January 2014 timeframe; final report by May 2014
- As indicated above, Working Group requests further specific instruction from NTIA on the parameters of the assumptions that should go into recommendations on methods
- Working Group also requests NTIA to provide SMEs to present a briefing to the group on the experience of any existing USG arrangements for sharing commercial spectrum (e.g., FCC, Industry, NTIA)

**Bottom Line:** Bi-directional sharing is likely to increase in visibility as the commercial auctions are completed, the opportunities will require a comprehensive ruleset based on best practices.