



DSA Workshop on Spectrum Management Databases Event Wrap-Up Report

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 | 12:00pm-1:30 PM (Eastern) | U.S. Capitol Visitors Center

Overview:

On Tuesday, March 12th, the Dynamic Spectrum Alliance hosted an event on Capitol Hill co-sponsored by the Congressional Spectrum Caucus, featuring Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA), FCC Commissioners Michael O’Rielly and Jessica Rosenworcel and industry leaders, to discuss spectrum policy and unveil DSA’s latest report on spectrum sharing. Michael Calabrese, Director of the Wireless Future Program at New America Foundation presented the report’s findings and Kalpak Gude hosted an FCC fireside chat focused on the need for effective spectrum sharing solutions and balanced policies. Additionally, attendees heard from Derek Khlopin from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration who discussed the CBRS band and the National Spectrum Strategy. The event sparked discussions about the impact spectrum sharing will have on 5G, access to unlicensed spectrum, the Internet of Things and more.

Speakers:

Opening Remarks: U.S. Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA-06)

Congresswoman Matsui touched on the challenges of deploying networks and the need for effective and efficient ways to use finite spectrum resources. Additionally, the Congresswoman encouraged opening the 6 GHz band for additional uses and highlighted the important role automated frequency coordination plays in ensuring incumbent users are protected from interference.



Fireside Chat: FCC Commissioners Mike O’Rielly & Jessica Rosenworcel

Featured Speakers:

- **Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel**, Federal Communications Commission
- **Commissioner Mike O’Rielly**, Federal Communications Commission
- **Moderator: Kalpak Gude**, former DSA President

FCC Commissioners Mike O’Rielly & Jessica Rosenworcel discussed how spectrum is a finite resource and explored how technologies and effective policies can help expand the wireless world and economy through more dynamic

spectrum allocation. They stressed that dynamic spectrum access is the future and emphasized the need to make more unlicensed access and spectrum sharing in the 6 GHz band a reality.



Remarks



Featured Speaker: Derek Khlopin, Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

Derek Khlopin discussed how NTIA has supported spectrum sharing in the CBRS band from the beginning. NTIA is currently working with the FCC, the Department of Defense and the wireless industry to move this process forward. In regards to the National Spectrum Strategy, Khlopin shared that NTIA’s goal is to ultimately approach bands with a “higher level” look and not a piecemeal approach.

Presentation of Report Findings

Featured Speaker: Michael Calabrese, Director of the Wireless Future Program at New America Foundation

During the presentation, Michael Calabrese presented the report’s findings on shared spectrum and demonstrated how Automated Spectrum Access is already in use in the CBRS band.



Pre-Event:

Prior to the event, Glen Echo Group facilitated the following:

- Designed, revised and updated invitation language and distributed it to targeted Capitol Hill, media and industry invitation lists. Managed information about the event itself (e.g. ensured location, directions and speaker updates for invitations and attendees).
 - On March 5th, there were 4 registered attendees for the event. By March 12th (4 business days later), 83 people registered.
- Managed RSVPs, provided updates on progress and managed logistics of a final list for distribution to Capitol Police
- Promoted event via social media
 - Pre-event tweets garnered engagement from Commissioner O’Rielly



- Provided press outreach and on-site handling of reporters, coordinated with Representative Matsui’s office on press

Day of Event Support:

- Provided on-site registration support
 - The event drew a total of 52 attendees including Congressional staff, industry leaders and media
- Live-tweeted event from Dynamic Spectrum Alliance’s Twitter profile
- Distributed post-event recap with speaker quotes to targeted reporter list

Press Support:

As a part of our earned media strategy, the Glen Echo Group invited key DC and industry reporters to the event, provided edits for the press release announcing the event and the paper and sent “day of” press release to a tailored list of U.S.-based technology reporters and . both through a series of scheduled email blasts as well as through individually tailored follow-ups.

Notable media attendees included:

- Paul Kirby, *TR Daily*
- Nicole Bleier, *Law360*

Press Coverage:

See *full stories below*

- [Wireless Industry Urges Use Of Databases To Share Spectrum](#) - Law 360 - Nicole Bleier - March 12, 2019

- *Rosenworcel, O’Rielly Differ on Agency Spectrum Approach* - TR Daily - Paul Kirby - March 12, 2019

Social Media:

The Glen Echo Group promoted the event with several engaging tweets from DSA’s account. During the event, we provided live tweets of the event, capturing key quotes and photos using the hashtag #SpectrumSharing. Below are some of the top tweets from yesterday’s event:



The event also sparked online conversation, including a tweet from Congresswoman Matsui. Below are some of the highlights:



Full Stories

[Wireless Industry Urges Use Of Databases To Share Spectrum](#)

Law 360

Nicole Bleier

March 12, 2019

Demand for the airwaves is mushrooming so rapidly that U.S. policymakers should use databases to identify where spectrum can be shared, particularly as other countries ramp up wireless deployment, a trade group said Tuesday on Capitol Hill.

The push for more cutting-edge spectrum management — advanced by groups like the Dynamic Spectrum Alliance, which met with lawmakers and congressional staffs — comes as the sector keeps pace with the evolution of 5G, the internet of things and an ever-growing appetite for connectivity.

"These networks promise to transform the services all around us," Rep. Doris Matsui, D-Calif., one of the leaders of the Congressional Spectrum Caucus, told the group of legislative aides. "The need for spectrum is, right now, endless."

"The many challenges of actually deploying networks efficiently will require continued innovation," Matsui said. "That's why I'm really excited about this focus on automated frequency coordination."

The bipartisan gathering of what one participant dryly called "spectrum nerds," which Rep. Brett Guthrie, R-Ky. also helped organize, focused on a new report from Dynamic Spectrum Alliance

that touts more expansive use of databases and calls efficient spectrum sharing a "critical regulatory tool."

Several countries have set up frequency coordination databases to manage real-time assignments in shared bands, as well as protect users such as the military and public safety systems from interference, the trade group said.

Michael O'Rielly and Jessica Rosenworcel, who both serve on the Federal Communications Commission, said the FCC needs to speed up spectrum auctions to keep outpacing the rest of the world in making use of the airwaves. The 6 GHz band especially has growth potential, they said.

"When I look at 6 GHz, I recognize that we are going to have to protect incumbents, because moving all those to different bands is probably too time-consuming and expensive to do," O'Rielly said.

"So that's where automated frequency coordination comes into play, where we make sure harmful interference isn't caused to those that actually have licenses," he added.

Rosenworcel pointed out that the country can't make more spectrum.

"But we can try to think about technologies and policies that will turn that scarcity into abundance," she said. "That will allow our wireless world and economy to grow. And [I think] how can we use more dynamic spectrum allocation? And automated frequency coordination will be a big part of that."

Rosenworcel said that the "question now is how creative can we be" and that "dynamic access is really front and center" of efforts to allocate spectrum efficiently.

"I just think that this represents the future," Rosenworcel said.

Michael Calabrese, director of the Wireless Future Project at New America Foundation, explained the Dynamic Spectrum Alliance report's findings, saying that while using databases to coordinate spectrum sharing is not new, the technical ability to automate the process is rapidly advancing.

That helps lower the costs, protects incumbent spectrum users and coordinates users and devices almost in real time, Calabrese said.

"Dynamic sharing enabled by databases unlocks what we otherwise think of as finite spectrum capacity," Calabrese said. "Don't just think of this as something about unlicensed; it's actually about squeezing more capacity for a whole wide range of underutilized bands."

Rosenworcel, O’Rielly Differ on Agency Spectrum Approach

TR Daily

Paul Kirby

March 12, 2019

FCC Commissioners Jessica Rosenworcel and Mike O’Rielly disagreed a bit today on the degree to which policy-makers should provide incentives for federal agencies to use spectrum efficiently while also using “sticks” to ensure that they do.

During a Capitol Hill event organized by the Dynamic Spectrum Alliance, in partnership with the Congressional Spectrum Caucus, Commissioner Rosenworcel reiterated her belief that federal agencies should be provided incentives to share spectrum with commercial users or relinquish it.

Mr. O’Rielly said agencies don’t have any incentives to use spectrum efficiently, adding that officials should impose “obligations” on them, including requiring their spectrum to be “scored” and using that value as a measurement.

“Maybe they don’t need as much [spectrum] going forward,” Mr. O’Rielly said, noting that the Trump administration wants agencies to look at their long-term spectrum needs as part of its national spectrum strategy.

But Ms. Rosenworcel said that if agencies are asked to determine their long-term spectrum needs without any incentive to use it efficiently, they will assume they need more than they might actually need.

Mr. O’Rielly replied that the plan can be updated going forward.

“I think you can have incentives,” he said. But he added that on “the flip side,” there is a need for “a kick in the pants.”

“We’re going to have to have a lot more stick” regarding federal agencies’ use of spectrum, he added.

Ms. Rosenworcel again called for a “Wi-Fi dividend” that ensures that unlicensed spectrum is made available whenever licensed spectrum is identified. Such a regime would address the situation where the Congressional Budget Office doesn’t count unlicensed spectrum as having a value because it’s not auctioned.

But Mr. O’Rielly said that policy-makers might make more unlicensed spectrum available at times, while at other times it might free up more licensed frequencies. “It’s a matter of finding the right time for each,” he added.

The Commissioners also said they want to see the 3.5 gigahertz band used as soon as possible. Mr. O’Rielly said he believes that the process of ensuring that spectrum access systems (SASs) and environmental sensing capability (ESC) databases can enable sharing in the spectrum is “coming to conclusion.”

He said he believes that general authorized access (GAA) spectrum could be ready for use by the end of the second quarter.

As for an auction of priority access licenses (PALs), he said the FCC must coordinate the schedule with other planned auctions, such as a millimeter-wave band sale later this year. As a result, the PAL auction might not happen until the first or second quarter of 2020, he said.

Ms. Rosenworcel said the FCC should prioritize the PAL sale, saying that other countries are ahead of the U.S. in making mid-band spectrum available.

Mr. O’Rielly said he wants to see the auction occur as soon as possible, but he bemoaned the fact that “we can’t hold two auctions at once.”

“We should be able to,” Ms. Rosenworcel said.

Mr. O’Rielly said he agreed.

The Commissioners also emphasized the importance of automated frequency coordination (AFC) to enable more utilization of spectrum through sharing, such as in the TV white spaces spectrum and the 6 GHz band.

Also at today’s event, Rep. Doris Matsui (D., Calif.), co-chair of the Congressional Spectrum Caucus, stressed the potential benefits of AFC to enable sharing and help balance the spectral needs of federal agencies and commercial users.

She emphasized that AFC is not limited to federal spectrum, saying that it could be used to free up spectrum for additional use in the 6 GHz band.

The DSA today released a report emphasizing the importance of AFC systems in unlocking spectrum capacity.

“Databases have been used to manage large scale telecommunications systems for nearly five decades,” a news release on the report noted. “Automated spectrum management systems have been widely adopted, and the number of radios managed by these systems is expected to increase significantly over the next decade.” The report cited the potential of the databases to enable lower transaction costs and protect incumbents from interference.

“The availability, flexibility and reliability of AFC systems help national regulatory authorities to meet the growing and very diverse spectrum needs of both industries and individuals, while ensuring no interference to incumbent services in shared bands,” the news release said.

“At a time when regulators are under increased pressure to meet wireless connectivity demands, AFC is critical to enable more efficient shared use of underutilized frequency bands while protecting incumbent services from interference,” said Paul Garnett, chairman of the DSA board. “Automated spectrum databases are now a proven means of achieving large-scale, low-cost, and virtually real-time access to communications capacity that would otherwise go unused.”

“There has never been a better time for regulators around the world to leverage AFC as a tool fuelling gigabit-fast broadband networks and close the digital divide that persists in far too many communities. The DSA looks forward to facilitating the global integration of AFC to maximise spectrum management for the digital era,” Mr. Garnett added.