

September 3, 2020

Ex Parte

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Facilitating Shared Use in the 3.1-3.55 GHz Band, WT Docket No. 19-348*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Dynamic Spectrum Alliance (“DSA”)¹ submits this letter in response to the recent announcement by the White House and the Department of Defense (the “Administration”) that the 3.45-3.55 GHz band will be made available for commercial 5G deployment, as well as to Chairman Pai’s statement that the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) is “moving quickly to adopt service rules for the 3.45 GHz band and then hold an auction to bring this prime mid-band spectrum to market.” The DSA applauds the Administration and the FCC for their efforts to make additional critical mid-band spectrum available for 5G services and supports spectrum policies that make efficient use of the spectrum, deliver more spectrum for connectivity and broadband access and accelerate services commercialization. We look forward to working with the Commission on a rulemaking proceeding to ensure that this band and adjacent mid-band frequencies can be put to the best and highest use in the near future.

To that end, the DSA urges the Commission to consider a number of issues as it prepares to launch a rulemaking proceeding. First, DSA asks that the Commission consider the impact of new broadband mobile and fixed services in the 3.45-3.55 GHz band on the adjacent CBRS band. Co-existence with CBRS systems in the adjacent 3.55-3.70 GHz band will be critical to

¹ The Dynamic Spectrum Alliance is a global, cross-industry alliance focused on increasing dynamic access to unused radio frequencies. The membership spans multinational companies, small- and medium-sized enterprises, academic, research, and other organizations from around the world, all working to create innovative solutions that will increase the utilization of available spectrum to the benefit of consumers and businesses alike. A full list of the DSA members is available on the DSA’s website at www.dynamicspectrumalliance.org/members/.

maximize use of all 5G mid-band spectrum. More importantly, the FCC must assure that moving incumbent federal systems from the 3.4 GHz band does not undermine the availability of CBRS networks in which deployers have already invested billions. Successful co-existence, maximizing use of all mid-band spectrum, and protecting investments in existing 5G systems will likely necessitate a thorough review of the transmit power limits, out-of-band-emission limits, coordination requirements, and incumbent protection methods that will apply to both the 3.45-3.55 GHz and CBRS bands. The DSA encourages the FCC in its rulemaking to include a comprehensive look at the technical issues that will impact both of these bands.

Second, the DSA also recommends that the FCC include in its notice of proposed rulemaking an examination and consideration of the benefits of different licensing approaches for the 3.45-3.55 GHz band. While Chairman Pai indicated in his statement that there will be an auction of these frequencies, the DSA reminds the Commission of the significant benefits that have accrued from the CBRS licensing framework that includes both licensed and lightly-licensed access options. The announcement this week of the conclusion of Auction 105 for CBRS priority access licenses (PALs) with gross proceeds of over \$4.5 billion, the unprecedented number of PAL auction participants, and the breadth and diversity of wireless sectors represented by the PAL license winners are all evidence of the advantages and efficacy of this licensing approach. The DSA encourages the FCC to include in the notice of proposed rulemaking the possibility of extending aspects of the CBRS licensing framework to 3.45-3.55 GHz, as well as enabling the “use-it or share-it” rules, which will ensure that rural Americans residing within 3.4 GHz band license areas do not miss out on the benefits of opening this important 5G band.

Sincerely,

/s/ Martha Suarez
President
Dynamic Spectrum Alliance