

FCC wireless auction begins June 29

February 2 2006

The Federal Communications Commission will auction advanced wireless service (AWS) licenses for the United States in late June.

The agency this week announced that the auction for space on the AWS and AWS-1 bands would take place June 29, with comments and replies on the proposal due by the end of the month.

"The 1.7 Gigahertz (GHz) to 2.1 GHz auction will enable current wireless operators to augment their existing spectrum assets and expand wireless services," Chris Hardy, vice president and general manager for Comsearch, said recently. "This auction also presents an opportunity for a host of new entrants who may be looking for spectrum to deliver new and emerging wireless technology offerings."

The complexity of the process is such that Comsearch last month released a software program designed specifically to keep track of the spectrum that will be auctioned. More than 1,000 licenses will be auctioned in the AWS-1 band alone.

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