



Computer Systems Policy Project (www.cspp.org)

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Recommendations for Action on Wireless Broadband Deployment

The Networked World depends on devices that allow both **accessibility and mobility**. As wireless devices become less expensive and corporations continue to build wireless networks, the momentum towards a fully connected world grows stronger every day. It is the **lack of spectrum availability** that threatens the realization of a truly networked world.

The U.S. currently lags behind much of the developed world by as much as **50 to 100 percent** in the availability of spectrum for commercial mobile services. While other countries have, or are in the process of making additional spectrum available to meet the demand for new enabling products and services, the U.S. has no plan to do so. Lagging the world in this critical resource harms U.S. business economically and means that the American public will not benefit from the same level of connectedness enjoyed by peoples in other countries.

CSPP proposes that the U.S. make available in the marketplace **120 MHz of spectrum by 2004, with another 80 MHz made available by 2010**, which is harmonized with global spectrum use to the maximum extent possible. In addition, the U.S. should implement a process to make additional licensed and unlicensed spectrum available beyond 2010 in a way that is consistent with an effective, **long-term vision** for its management.

In order to meet these goals in wireless broadband deployment, CSPP recommends:

- The Administration should deploy an interagency **National Spectrum Management Policy Group** that has the authority to coordinate between the agencies currently involved in the management of spectrum and which can determine goals for the **long-term management** of all spectrum.
- This group should work with the NTIA, the FCC and the DoD over the following year to **inventory all spectrum bands** and evaluate the current intensity of spectrum usage within their respective jurisdictions. The agencies should then **develop a comprehensive spectrum management plan** covering both federal government and non-federal government spectrum in a way that embraces next-generation technologies by the end of 2003.
- Congress should also establish strong federal policies that permit the fastest possible build-out of the Networked World Infrastructure, such as granting the FCC the statutory authority to develop a long-term plan to **speed the availability of analog broadcast television spectrum to other uses** as the industry transitions to digital broadcast.
- Industry and government should continue to invest **in research and development** to boost the speed, **mobility** and security of the 21st Century Networked World Infrastructure.
- The industry should continue to develop **richer content** that exceeds consumer expectations and drives demand and should continue efforts to develop a **digital rights management** strategy that protects content, consumer choice and technological innovation.
