

VPS Memo

Auction 105 & Part 96 Transition – 3.5 GHz

FCC SEEKS COMMENT ON BIDDING PROCEDURES FOR 3.5 GHz AUCTION 105

Auction 105

Comment Date: October 28, 2019

Reply Comment Date: November 12, 2019

On September 26, 2019, the FCC adopted the public notice seeking comment on proposed competitive bidding procedures for the auction of the Priority Access Licenses (PALs) within the 3550-3650 MHz portion of the 3.5 GHz Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) band, as part of the shared use scheme under the FCC's Part 96 rules. The auction will offer seven PALs in each license area (presently, Counties), for a total of 22,631 PALs nationwide. Up to four PALs may be held by a licensee in each license area. Each license will consist of a 10-megahertz unpaired channel within the band, which is flexible-use mid-band spectrum.

Designated as Auction 105, the public notice requests comment on the proposed application and bidding procedures. This includes:

- Utilization of an ascending clock auction
- County and Cellular Market Area (CMA) bid opportunities
- "Activity upper limit" bid eligibility
- Bidding cap credits for small business and rural service providers

Auction 105 is scheduled to commence on June 25, 2020.

Part 96 Transition

A portion of the CBRS band has been available for commercial use on a "lightly licensed" and shared basis under the FCC's Part 90 ruleset. No new Part 90 licenses are being issued. However, once the Commission announces the CBRS band as being "Commercially Ready" and authorizes the Spectrum Access System (SAS) providers for commercial services, new Part 96 licenses will become available on a shared, Generally Authorized Access (GAA) basis.

Upon commercial readiness, Non-SAS-controlled use of the band under Part 90 rules will no longer be legal except for those who filed for grandfathered status. Full commercial SAS availability is expected mid-November; **therefore, it is imperative for all current Part 90 operations to be able to transition immediately to Part 96 operation, or be prepared to shut down.** This transition precedes and is unrelated to PAL Auction 105.

Additional Information

Vantage Point Solutions will host a webinar on November 19th to provide clients with an overview of the transition to Part 96; and, will preview the appropriate steps to prepare for Auction 105. You can register for the webinar by clicking on the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8982240742722596364?source=VPS+Memo>

VPS is prepared to answer any general questions you may have. Please contact any VPS staff below for more information to assist you.

1. Transition from Part 90 operations to Part 96 operations.
Brian Bell, PE at 605-995-1767 or Brian.Bell@vantagepnt.com
2. Auction 105 – VPS will be prepared to offer full auction assistance as with past wireless auctions (planning, short forms, bidding, long forms).
Doug Eidahl, JD at 605-995-1750 or Doug.Eidahl@vantagepnt.com
Kristy Szabo at 605-995-1786 or Kristy.Szabo@vantagepnt.com

