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Spectrum Policy Working Group

Scope, Charter, Mission

Scope: The scope of the Spectrum Policy Working Group (“SPWG”) encompasses public policy issues related to spectrum use, management, and availability.

Charter: The SPWG will formulate TIA policy and positions on spectrum-related issues. Actions taken pursuant to this charter may require coordination with other TIA policy committees, working groups, or divisions.

Mission: The mission of the SPWG is to work with and promote consensus-based spectrum policy positions to the Congress, the Administration, Federal Agencies, and any other relevant governmental body. This mission includes but is not limited to the following:

- Be a trusted adviser to the government on issues relating to the development and implementation of forward-looking spectrum policies;
- Provide policymakers with information and advice relating to the impact of spectrum policies on the information & communications technology industry, on businesses, on government users, and on consumers;
- Provide support to government initiatives where appropriate;
- Advocate for appropriate efficiency incentives and targeted federal funding for projects to improve spectrum use, management, and availability.

TIA: Spectrum Policy for the 21st Century

Radio spectrum has never before been more important. In commercial communications networks, mobile data use is exploding as consumers embrace smartphones, tablets and other devices. Wireless connectivity is becoming the way in which consumers access the Internet from technologies such as LTE and Wi-Fi. In addition to commercial uses, the Federal Government places demands on spectrum for communications, sensing, radar and other uses across a wide variety of agencies and to achieve a diverse set of missions unique to government. Moreover, radio technologies themselves are changing, placing new demands on traditional spectrum allocation approaches. As a result of these dynamic changes, spectrum allocations and uses that met the country’s needs during the 20th century are increasingly under stress.

Because US policymakers are no longer writing spectrum policy on a blank sheet of paper, and virtually all usable spectrum is allocated, TIA believes that a national spectrum policy must reflect the following principles to allow the nation’s use of radio spectrum to evolve to meet changing demands and enable new technologies:

- (1) Spectrum allocations need to be predictable – identifying demand and changes in demand, understanding the pace of radio technology development by platform, and planning for the long term are all part of a spectrum policy plan that can support predictability for both commercial and government uses;
- (2) For commercial allocations, flexible use policies consistent with baseline technical rules that are technology-neutral, has proven to be the best policy;
- (3) Policies should encourage more “efficient use” of spectrum, recognizing that there is no one size fits all definition; and

(4) Policies should recognize that some existing radio platforms, such as commercial mobile, today depend upon geographically cleared spectrum, while emerging radio technologies may be able to share with other like or unlike radio technologies. In cases where sharing is possible, policies must advance good engineering practice to best support an environment that protects those with superior spectrum rights from harmful interference.