Why haven’t Secondary Markets been Successful?

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Spectrum Bridge & Secondary Markets

Spectrum Bridge runs a secondary market place for spectrum as well as several spectrum sharing databases (TWDR, TVWS)

We focus on radio spectrum between 50MHz and 6GHz as this is the most useful for portable and mobile applications.

Conventional wisdom says that this spectrum is getting very scarce

Yet numerous studies have determined that up to 90% is unused at any given time.

So lack of spectrum is not the problem lack of access is.

Secondary Markets are a way to solve this problem yet despite being enabled for several years they have not matured
The FCC began modification to rules and regulations in 2002 that enable spectrum to be sliced and diced, bought, sold, leased and lent in a number of ways including:

- Geographic Partitioning
- Time Slicing
- Frequency Disaggregation

So while these rules could be enhanced the basic problem is not regulation.
It is not really a technology issue either.
There is an existing, albeit immature secondary market today and existing technologies can exploit it.

There are no specific business issues that restrict the secondary market.

So what is it that is holding it back and how does TV White Space become a catalyst to its success?
The Real Issues

Education, or lack thereof

Even today people question whether our secondary market is legal and, even if it is, if they are able to participate.

Technology fear, Interference and availability

They fear that sharing spectrum will lead to interference.

They fear that spectrum that they can use today won’t be available tomorrow.

Lack of incentive

There need to be carrots and sticks to stop spectrum holder from simply hoarding spectrum.

Lower cost

The licensing system is geared towards multi million dollar transactions.
TV White Space solutions are comprised of a Database to protect against interference and a frequency agile radio that can address the Technology fears and significantly improve secondary market opportunities.
White Spaces Trials

“Smart Grid” Network Deployment Using SBI’s TV White Spaces Architecture – Plumas County, CA, In Partnership with Google

Nation’s First TVWS Broadband Network – Claudville, VA, In Partnership with Dell, Microsoft

“Smart City” Network Deployment Using SBI’s TV White Spaces Architecture – Wilmington, NC
In Partnership with Local Authorities and Public Safety Entities

Corporate Headquarters – Lake Mary, FL
TVWS Prototype Radios Development
In Partnership with

First Global Exposure of SBI’s TV White Spaces Architecture in Europe

TVWS Trial Network Deployment Proposed – Singapore

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Secondary markets are the only realistic way that significant amounts of spectrum will be made available in the near term. Spectrum Bridge believes that TV White Space is just the tip of the iceberg. Once this concept is understood and accepted significantly more spectrum, both licensed and unlicensed could be shared in near real-time by secondary market solutions.
Thank you