

Markets in Experimental Licenses

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Current Pipeline for Flexible- Use Licenses



Auction 110 – 3.45 GHz

Auction 108– 2.5 GHz

Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015
to find 30 MHz by July 1, 2024

Spectrum Relocation Fund
created in 2004

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New Facility for Experimental STAs

- Experimental STAs are very flexible
- Experimental STAs can be cleared in future auctions

Flexibility in Experimental STAs

Since 2007, experimental licenses have been issued in over 74,932 frequencies, spanning nearly every band defined by the ITU spectrum table

Most of these frequency bands, 58,273, or 77.8%, have been in the valuable middle bands below 3 GHz, with most requests occurring for use on the UHF band

Bustamante et al. (2020) reviewed ten years of ERS licenses from 2007-2016, finding that the FCC has been able to speed up its time to issue licenses for special temporary authority from 100 days to 23 days

STA authorizations are limited to 6 months, while experimental licenses are allowed between 6 months and 5 years, with the majority of ERS licenses issued for 2-year terms

Experimental Users Cleared from 3.1 GHz-3.33 GHz

Table 1. Experimental Users Cleared from 3.1 GHz-3.33 GHz

Company	Band	Description
Broadband Sports International	3.401 GHz-3.418 GHz	Video relay for RF cameras for sporting events such as PGA Tour and NASCAR
Aerial Video Systems	3.3 GHz-3.4 GHz	RF video cameras for studio in TV City Los Angeles, for Golden Globe, Grammy, Academy Awards, The Voice, Dancing with the Stars ²¹
Boeing	3.1 GHz-3.55 GHz	Aviation safety testing and certification ²²
Lockheed Martin	3.1 GHz-3.55 GHz	U.S. radar manufacturers and R&D functions ²³
Raytheon	3.1 GHz-3.55 GHz	Radar testing at approximately two dozen facilities in the U.S. ²⁴

Source: 3.1-3.55 GHz R&O & FNPRM (2020).

“Spectrum Exchange Act of 2024”

“Special Temporary Authority Facility”

Establish national spectrum exchanges of
4-12 private firms

Allow them to register with the Facility to
run markets for experimental STAs
between incumbents and licensees

Require “Certificate of Non-Interference”
for attestations about interference before
parties approach the facility

“Federal Spectrum Contribution Act of 2024”

Establish a Federal Spectrum
Contribution Company

Statutory authority for fees/bids for
federal spectrum

Miscellaneous Receipts Act prohibits
revenues for federal spectrum

FSCC would manage bookkeeping,
auditing, and spectrum inventories

NTIA/IRAC would oversee FSCC and
maintain reallocation and relocation fund

Work in Progress



Thanks!

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