



Public Safety Alliance
 Dedicated to First Responders...First
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America's First Responders Need Your Help!

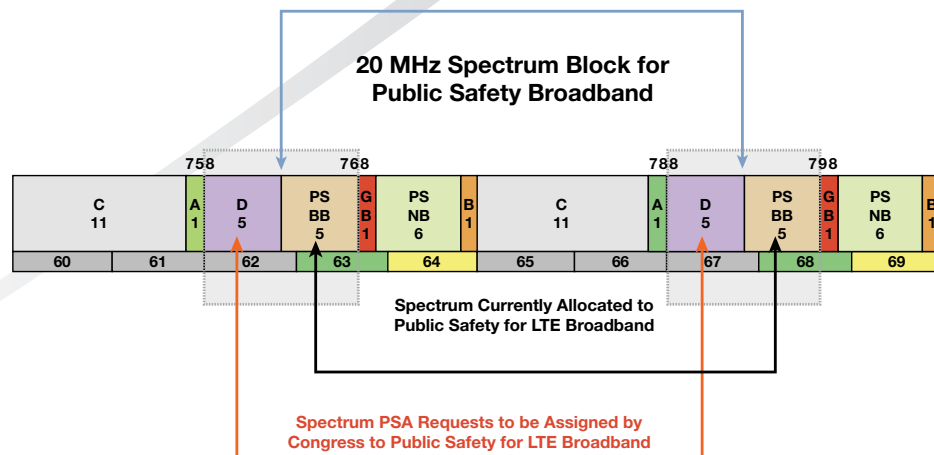
Support Legislation that Would Allocate the D-Block Spectrum to Public Safety!

Who Is the Public Safety Alliance?

The Public Safety Alliance is a partnership among the nation's leading public safety associations, including the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Sheriffs' Association, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Major County Sheriffs' Association, the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, the National Emergency Management Association and the National Association of EMS Officials. The partnership is operated as a program of APCO International.

What Is the D-Block?

The D-Block is a 10-MHz piece of spectrum in the upper 700-MHz spectral band. It sits adjacent to the spectrum currently licensed to public safety.



Why Is the D-Block So Important to Public Safety?

The D-Block is the only unencumbered portion of spectrum remaining in the 700-MHz band on a national basis. Public safety requires a minimum 20-MHz of spectrum for a nationwide broadband network. It is currently the license holder of 10-MHz of spectrum in the 700-MHz band. From a fiscal standpoint, the build-out of a 20-MHz network split between two separate bands would cost taxpayers billions more than simply building one 20-MHz network on a singular spectral band. Allocating the D-Block to public safety will allow for a nationwide interoperable broadband network on a contiguous 20-MHz spectrum swath.

The 20-MHz network will have the capacity necessary to transmit mission-critical real-time high-resolution video, voice and data, which is why the D-Block is the only spectrum truly capable of meeting public safety's needs.

Who Controls the Fate of the D-Block?

The fate of the D-Block rests squarely in the hands of Congress. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has interpreted its congressional directive as a mandate to auction the D-Block spectrum to commercial services only. Many believe the auction will be held sometime in 2011. Instead of auctioning off the spectrum, the Public Safety Alliance is urging Congress to pass legislation that would allocate the D-Block and a funding component to public safety to aid in the build-out of a nationwide broadband network.

Is There Legislation That Would Allocate the D-Block and Funding to Public Safety?

Yes. The Public Safety Alliance urges all Senators to cosponsor and support **S. 28, The Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act of 2011**, as recently re-introduced by Senator John (Jay) Rockefeller, IV (D-WV), Chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

In addition to the Rockefeller legislation, Representative Peter King (R-NY3), current Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, introduced last year the Broadband for First Responders Act and the Senate Homeland Security Chairman Joe Lieberman (I-CT) and former Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John McCain (R-AZ) introduced the First Responders Protection Act in the Senate. The House version (H.R. 5081 in the 111th Congress) garnered 81 bi-partisan co-sponsors prior to adjournment. Chairman King is expected to reintroduce the bill in 2011 in coordination with Senators Lieberman and McCain, and it is expected to include language to fund the build-out and sustainment of the nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network.

High-level Administration and White House officials briefed public safety and state and local government officials ahead of the President's State of the Union speech about the Administration's National Wireless Initiative that will include a policy to allocate the D-Block to public safety and provide significant federal funding in excess of \$10 billion that is being derived from incentive based and other spectrum auctions* for the build-out, research and development and sustainability of the 20-MHz LTE/4G nationwide public safety broadband network. In the briefing, the Vice President's office made it clear the Administration wants legislation to be passed quickly and that the public safety broadband network is a priority for the President in 2011.

Does Public Safety Really Require Broadband?

Yes. Demand for public safety broadband services will increase at a faster pace than predicted in the FCC's National Broadband Plan, since the public safety community has only recently begun building out this network. As the network is developed and new devices and applications become available, public safety's demand for video and data services will substantially increase.

The demand for data services within the public safety community is expected to parallel the commercial world; therefore, it is unrealistic that the 10-MHz of spectrum currently allocated to public safety is sufficient for the volume of data its agencies will need, both for day-to-day use and in emergency situations. These same sentiments were echoed by Admiral James Barnett, Chief of the FCC Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, who agreed that "public safety will...need more spectrum than the 10-MHz designated to it by Congress."

Can Public Safety Use Commercial Broadband Services?

No. Commercial systems cannot be relied upon for mission-critical operations. Commercial networks, which become congested with consumer applications such as Facebook, YouTube, Hulu and Twitter, are not going to be able to provide sufficient priority access to ensure public safety is given the necessary capacity and bandwidth to transmit their data. Commercial service providers are not willing to allow priority communications from first responders to displace paying customers engaging in day-to-day communication (known as ruthless preemption), even during a crisis.

**Use of spectrum proceeds is consistent with the President's Memorandum calling for freeing up 500-MHz for commercial wireless market to create jobs, spur innovation and economic development.*

How Will Public Safety Support the Build-Out of the Network?

There are a number of funding models to support the build-out of the network. While no single solution will pay for the entire network, a flexible program will make it possible to offset many of the costs associated with its construction. Some of the funding mechanisms include:

1. Excess network capacity not utilized by public safety can be leased out to commercial providers or other users on a secondary basis. This will ensure efficient use of the spectrum, while still giving local public safety agencies control over who is able to use the spectrum and when they are able to use it. The lease revenue of the network would offset a portion of the build-out and maintenance of the network.
2. Proceeds from other spectrum auctions are proposed to finance the establishment of a grant program that will fund the build-out and maintenance of the network.
3. Current Homeland Security, Justice, Transportation and other Federal grants could be authorized and prioritized by Congress to assist state and local governments in building a broadband network.
4. Universal Service Funds (USF) can also be prioritized to help local and state government deploy broadband networks in underserved and unserved areas.
5. A nominal monthly fee can be imposed on consumers of commercial broadband services to aid local and state governments in building the network.
6. Public safety agencies can partner with private industry such as utilities to share the cost of building the network.
7. Funding will also come from state and local public safety operational expenses.

If the D-Block spectrum is auctioned, then the cost of building out the 10-MHz of public safety broadband network will need to rely solely on federal grant dollars. Given that scenario, public safety will not be able to leverage the excess capacity of the network in order to create flexible partnership and funding programs.

How Much Will the Build-Out Cost?

FCC's National Broadband Plan states that the build-out of a 10-MHz broadband network will cost approximately \$6 to \$10 billion over the next five years. The cost of building a 20-MHz network is practically the same, if not less. The difference is who will pay for it. The FCC's plan requires the federal government to pay for the build-out.

However, if public safety were able to leverage the excess network capacity, utilize existing public safety infrastructure when building out the network and secure partnerships with private industry partners, the actual cost to local, state, tribal and federal governments would be considerably less. A combination of leasing excess capacity, prioritized federal grant programs and revenue from other auctioned spectrum would help build and sustain the nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network, while creating a budget neutral funding model.

What Are the Benefits of a Fully Operational Public Safety Broadband Network?

For starters, emergency first responders would have access to the sort of technology that many Americans use each day and often take for granted. Smart phones would allow police, fire and EMS officials to reach one another on devices supporting mission-critical voice and data capabilities, allowing them to more efficiently complete their jobs.

From an economic standpoint, an entire new market for data driven devices and applications will open up, allowing for greater competition, innovation and entrepreneurship. With more open competition for emergency first responder equipment, operational expenses decrease drastically, which becomes a force multiplier for public safety and local and state governments.

The build-out of the network will take years to complete, and the maintenance of the network will call on a well-trained workforce to ensure that the mission-critical network is up to industry standards. The project will undoubtedly create new and sustainable jobs for thousands of Americans.

What Is the Value of the D-Block Spectrum?

Sprint, T-Mobile, Clearwire and a few other business interests have shown the greatest interest in bidding for the D-Block, which has an estimated commercial auction value of between \$1.2 and \$3 billion. Applying public safety requirements to the spectrum, such as ruthless preemption (discussed above), would greatly decrease the spectrum's value. In addition, if the FCC blocks Verizon and AT&T from bidding on the D-Block, the resulting lack of open competition would considerably deflate the number and value of the bids.

Who Supports the Allocation of the D-Block?

Public Safety Associations: International Association of Chiefs of Police, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Sheriffs' Association, Major Cities Chiefs Association, Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, Major County Sheriffs' Association, Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, International, National Emergency Management Association, International Association of Emergency Managers, Police Executive Research Forum, National Criminal Justice Association, National Association of Police Organizations, National Volunteer Fire Council, National Troopers' Coalition, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, Association of Air Medical Services, Advocates for Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Nurses Association, National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians, National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, National Association of State Emergency Medical Service Officials, National Emergency Medical Services Management Association, International Municipal Signal Association, American Probation and Parole Association and InterAgency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability.

State and Local Government Associations: National Governors Association, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, United States Conference of Mayors, Council of State Governments, International City/County Managers Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, National Association of Regional Councils and the National Association of State Chief Information Officers.

Other National Associations: Communications Workers of America, American Public Works Association, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Alarm Industry Communications Committee and the National Association of State Technology Directors.

Public Safety Industry: Alcatel-Lucent, AT&T, EADS, Harris, Kenwood, L.R. Kimball, Motorola, Northrop Grumman, USA Software, Verizon Wireless, Raytheon, Rivada Networks, Taser, and Zetron.

Who Opposes the Allocation of the D-Block to Public Safety?

A narrow coalition of commercial carriers and business interests launched a campaign in December to rebrand itself as the "Connect Public Safety Now" coalition. Previously known as the Coalition for 4G in America, its goal is to ensure that the D-Block is auctioned off to a commercial bidder, rather than allocated to public safety.

Where Should I Go to Get More Information?

Go to www.psafirst.org to learn more about the most important issue public safety has faced in generations. Your support is critical to America's safety for decades to come. Please support your first responders by supporting legislation that will allocate the D-Block and funding to public safety.

