



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

Communications and Media Relations

Media release

Mobile broadband spectrum shortage requires immediate action

Paris, 20 October 2011

- Mobile broadband spectrum allocation insufficient for growing traffic demand
- Immediate government action necessary in countries and multilateral institutions

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) today called for governments and regulators to accelerate efforts to allocate and assign adequate spectrum to support the ever-increasing demand for mobile broadband.

In a discussion paper developed by the ICC Task Force on Internet and Telecoms Infrastructure and Services (IT IS), ICC expressed concern about the strain on spectrum supply to meet the demand created by the growing number of subscribers and machine-to-machine technologies, and by the increasing consumption of voice minutes and data capacity. ICC emphasized that it does not attach a greater importance to the use of spectrum for one particular mobile technology over another, and said that mobile broadband spectrum policy must co-exist with other critical societal priorities such as broadcast services.

Eric Loeb, Chair of IT IS, said: "Given the enormous contribution of mobile broadband to innovation, competition, and job and economic growth in developed and developing countries, it is crucial that the unprecedented potential of mobile broadband is not stifled by a lack of adequate spectrum." The ICC paper cites a recent Ovum study that has demonstrated that annual productivity gains in the US resulting from wirelessly enabling business applications will grow to US\$130 billion by 2016. It also notes remarks by Neelie Kroes, European Commission Vice-President for the Digital Agenda, who said: "Services which rely on spectrum represent 2% to 2.5% of annual EU gross domestic product (GDP), i.e. more than €250 billion according to a study undertaken by the Commission."

The speed at which governments implement additional spectrum plans is critical. "The skyrocketing uptake of 3G services and mobile devices is already putting tremendous pressure on the current spectrum allocations," said Mr Loeb. "As 4G adoption kicks in widely, that pressure will substantially increase. This entirely predictable spectrum shortage needs to be tackled as a priority today."

The ICC paper calls on governments and regulators to recognize the following key factors:

- Globally harmonizing spectrum reduces equipment costs and facilitates roaming, saving consumers money and promoting the deployment of new technologies and services.
- Licensing regimes that include mobile network operators that manage scarce spectrum, as well as mobile resale licenses, will encourage competition, a technology-neutral approach and the efficient use of the spectrum.

[Download the discussion paper](#)

For more information visit [ICC EBITT IT IS](#)

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About the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

The International Chamber of Commerce is the largest, most representative business organization in the world. Its hundreds of thousands of member companies in over 120 countries have interests spanning every sector of private enterprise.

A world network of national committees keeps the ICC International Secretariat in Paris informed about national and regional business priorities. More than 2,000 experts drawn from ICC's member companies feed their knowledge and experience into crafting the ICC stance on specific business issues.

The United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the G20 and many other intergovernmental bodies, both international and regional, are kept in touch with the views of international business through ICC.

For more information please visit: www.iccwbo.org