



GLOBAL FORUM 2011 PRESS RELEASE

Benton Foundation, November 7th 2011

FCC Commissioner McDowell Opposes Unlicensed Spectrum Set Aside

Submitted: November 7, 2011 - 8:29pm

Originally published: November 7, 2011

Source: [Broadcasting&Cable](#)

Author: [John Eggerton](#)

Location: Brussels, Belgium

Speaking to the Global Forum in Brussels, Federal Communications Commission member Robert McDowell pitched using a combination of already allocated unlicensed-use spectrum in the TV band - the so-called "white spaces" - with better spectrum management by cellular companies as a way to address the current spectrum needs of all those new smartphones and tablets.

"We should work together to encourage wireless providers to deploy enhanced antenna systems more aggressively and provide targeted consumer education on the benefits of using femtocells, both of which are ready off-the-shelf," said Commissioner McDowell. But he does not support setting aside a large continuous swath of unlicensed spectrum - as some computer companies have been advocating - as part of the current push to consolidate broadcasters and reclaim their spectrum for wireless auctions. "At this early stage, it is not apparent that we should stop the progress well under way in the white spaces arena to create a solution for a problem - an alleged shortage of unlicensed spectrum in the 700 MHz Band -- that may never exist." And then there is the budget issue. "Given today's unprecedented budget deficits, I question whether the U.S. can afford not to auction any and all spectrum recovered in this band," he said.

<http://benton.org/node/104911>

The Hill.com, November 7th 2011

FCC's McDowell opposes setting aside more TV spectrum for unlicensed use

By Gautham Nagesh - 11/07/11 01:29 PM ET

Republican Federal Communications Commission member Robert McDowell touted the benefits of unlicensed spectrum but said he opposes setting aside a further swath of TV airwaves for unlicensed use during a speech in Brussels on Monday.

McDowell emphasized that unlicensed spectrum and the smart networks that take advantage of it are crucial to helping expand the availability of wireless broadband Internet access, pointing to the FCC's decision last year to open up the unused spectrum between TV channels, known as "white spaces," for unlicensed use.

"Although highly technical in nature, the effect will be simple for consumers. In fact, they may not notice anything different, except that they will experience — and no doubt appreciate — higher speeds and expanded coverage when connecting to the Internet," McDowell said.

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Tel: +33. (0)1.46.42.48.76 Fax: +33. (0)1 41.08.94.27

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"This new and robust connectivity will spark the creation of as-yet unimagined applications for both personal and business uses."

But McDowell said he opposes further consolidation of TV channels so the FCC or Congress can set aside a large swath of the 700 MHz band of spectrum for unlicensed use. He said such proposals are premature and that the timeline of pursuing that approach is "murky at best."

At this early stage, it is not apparent that we should stop the progress well under way in the white spaces arena to create a solution for a problem — an alleged shortage of unlicensed spectrum in the 700 MHz Band — that may never exist," McDowell said.

McDowell said the point of the white spaces effort was to maximize efficiency and gain benefits from under-used spectrum. He also pointed out that such a large, contiguous block of spectrum would be clearly defined, exclusive and easily transferable, making it an appealing resource to be auctioned off to raise revenue.

"Given today's unprecedented budget deficits, I question whether the U.S. can afford not to auction any and all spectrum recovered in this band," he added.

McDowell closed by pointing to efforts currently under way to take advantage of the white spaces and predicted that the new advances will have an even larger impact on the economy than the development of Wi-Fi.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/hillicon-valley/technology/192149-fccs-mcdowell-opposes-setting-aside-more-tv-spectrum-for-unlicensed-use>

Broadcasting & Cable, November 7th 2011

FCC Commissioner McDowell Pitches Unlicensed Spectrum Use

Also says cell government should encourage cell companies to be more efficient spectrum users

By John Eggerton -- Broadcasting & Cable, 11/7/2011 10:15:27 AM

FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell pitched using a combination of already allocated unlicensed-use spectrum in the TV band - the so-called "white spaces" - with better spectrum management by cellular companies as a way to address the current spectrum needs of all those new smartphones and tablets.

That came in a speech to the Global Forum in Brussels Monday, according to a copy of his speech.

"We should work together to encourage wireless providers to deploy enhanced antenna systems more aggressively and provide targeted consumer education on the benefits of using femtocells, both of which are ready off-the-shelf," said McDowell.

But he does not support setting aside a large continuous swath of unlicensed spectrum - as some computer companies have been advocating - as part of the current push to consolidate broadcasters and reclaim their spectrum for wireless auctions. "At this early stage, it is not apparent that we should stop the progress well under way in the white spaces arena to create a solution for a problem - an alleged shortage of unlicensed spectrum in the 700 MHz Band -- that may never exist." And then there is the budget issue.

"Given today's unprecedented budget deficits, I question whether the U.S. can afford not to auction any and all spectrum recovered in this band," he said.

McDowell pointed out that even if the government started now to reclaim and auction spectrum, it

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would take a decade for the new capacity to start delivering that capacity for wireless companies.

In the meantime, he suggested, government should press wireless companies to do more with what they have. "Consumers reap the greatest benefits when public policy aims to bring more spectrum to market while also promoting spectral efficiency," he said.

Broadcasters have been arguing that too much attention has been put on taking back broadcaster spectrum and not enough on figuring out how much there is, who has it, how efficiently it is being used, whether it is being hoarded for business reasons - increased demand means increased prices for those who might want to sell it.

http://www.broadcastingcable.com/article/476342-FCC_Commissioner_McDowell_Pitches_Unlicensed_Spectrum_Use.php?rssid=20065

NETWORKWORLD

This story appeared on Network World at <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2011/111411-huawei-global-forum-253072.html>

HUAWEI WOWS GLOBAL FORUM

By Jay Gillette, Network World November 14, 2011 03:52 PM ET

Brussels, Belgium -- The 20th annual Global Forum last week highlighted the growing power of Asian information industries, plus the formidable technology challenges facing IT professionals who grapple with increasingly urgent integration requirements as systems converge and people become more mobile.

Called "the Davos of IT," Global Forum often forecasts world trends in the information and communication industries. The invitation-only delegates came from 29 countries and multiple international organizations, such as the European Commission and the World Bank. This year's conference focused on "Mobilizing Organizations and People for Sustainable Growth."

Telecommunications as a whole and Asian information industries in particular have been spared the worst impacts of the financial downturn for the most part. Asian companies are on the move, notably the Chinese telecom power Huawei which had a commanding presence at Global Forum. The \$28 billion company employs 110,000 people, with 51,000 of them outside of China. Taking a page from IBM's book, many of its international employees are from the local regions.

For example, Bosco Eduardo Fernandes, originally from Portugal, is head of the company's European Research Centre in Germany, one of 20 R&D facilities worldwide. Huawei invests 10% of its annual revenue in R&D and notes that 46% of its employees are engaged in R&D work.

As part of the Global Forum Open Innovation panel, Fernandes presented Huawei's strategy to establish its presence in IT solutions, lead in network development, and expand in devices. It intends to establish itself as a consumer brand, excel as a telecom carrier, and expand in the enterprise market.

Ao (Leo) Sun, Huawei's Brussels office and European Affairs president, shared the company's view that the cloud computing era has arrived, but that it's still too soon to fix strategies and vision. He

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called for more cooperation between players and for global cloud standards. Many speakers noted that United States companies are ahead of the rest of the world in the cloud computing arena and in research and development overall.

Another company looking to expand globally is the Japanese company KDDI, which has a reputation for innovation and an international reach already spanning 26 countries. The company's "3M Strategy" said Kan'ichiro Aritomi, KDDI Vice-Chairman, focuses on "multi-network, multi-device, multi-use." Wi-Fi is the approach they use to link networks in mobile phones, Fiber to the Home, Wi-Max, and CATV networks.

With revenue of more than \$40 billion, KDDI intends to "utilize the expertise we have gained in Japan to aggressively develop consumer business overseas."

MOBILITY AND CONVERGENCE

Technology convergence and social mobility have arrived, and are now inseparable. Speakers called for USA-style abilities for citizens to move and settle beyond the boundaries of their home state or region. For example, a German could spend most of his work career in Great Britain and retire on a pension in Spain.

Thus social systems integration is a huge business, promising to make citizen access easier, restrict bureaucratic corruption, and diminish client fraud from duplicative claims in multiple jurisdictions across civil borders.

The impact of IBM's extensive European operations and its "smarter cities" strategic initiative was also evident. Such integrated systems and services are a major focus of IBM worldwide. Harry Van Dorenmalen, chairman of IBM Europe, outlined what he called three "game changers" for this era:

The first is "Team Play" among knowledge institutions in universities, governments, and industry. He added that the key to progress affecting people in their lives will be the participation of mayors and municipal leaders, he said.

Second, the use of global talent will be a driver, with increasing participation of young technologists.

The third is leadership. Against a backdrop of Greek government crisis and the resignation of Italy's Berlusconi, Van Dorenmalen challenged the delegates as he concluded: "it starts and ends with leadership. Are we ready to change and shift direction? That's the question for you to think about on your drive home tonight."

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DRIVES GROWTH

According to Constantijn van Oranje, a cabinet member for the European Commission's Digital Agenda, new growth is 50% driven by Information and Communication Technology (ICT). He called for deeper investment in R&D in Europe, which lags the United States, and also continued engagement with regulation. Even the threat of regulation, he said, motivates self-regulation and co-regulation.

U.S. Federal Communications Commissioner Robert McDowell cited studies showing global telecommunications spending will jump from \$4.3 trillion now to \$5.31 trillion in three years. The Internet does disrupt employment, he said, but builds it too. For every job lost, the Internet allows the growth of 2.6 more jobs. McDowell called for more and smarter spectrum allocation for mobile and "unlicensed cognitive networks" which he says represent the future of the Internet.

In a related presentation, Federal Trade Commissioner Thomas Rosch said the FTC emphatically should not take the Federal Communications Commission's path on net neutrality as some have suggested. He said in light of the FCC's tangled struggle with the 1996 Telecom Act's distinction between telecommunications and so-called "information services," FTC should steer clear, as its very jurisdiction could be called into question, he argued.

The 2011 Global Forum was held in the Palais d'Egmont of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Sylviane Toporkoff, President of Global Forum, and a Founding Partner of sponsor ITEMS International, announced that the next Global Forum will be in fall 2012 in Stockholm, Sweden, which was designated "Intelligent Community of the Year" two years ago.

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Gillette is professor of information and communication sciences at Ball State University, director of its Human Factors Institute, and a senior research fellow at the Digital Policy Institute. He can be reached at jaygillette@bsu.edu.

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