

"The public safety community has been advocating for several years to get the 700 MHz public spectrum cleared of the TV Broadcasters and I am very pleased that this has finally been accomplished. It will be a great benefit to public safety", states Harlin McEwen, Vice Chair of NPSTC, regarding the signing of the DTV legislation. Please see the RCR article below:

RCR Wireless News

Bush signs DTV legislation

By Jeffrey Silva Feb 8, 2006

WASHINGTON-President Bush signed into law budget deficit legislation requiring TV broadcasters to surrender analog spectrum by Feb. 18, 2009, paving the way the redistribution of valuable frequencies to public safety and other wireless users.

The bill requires the Federal Communications Commission to auction 60 megahertz of the reclaimed spectrum by Jan. 28, 2008. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the auction of those airwaves could generate between \$10 billion and \$20 billion.

A portion of the revenues from the future auction of TV spectrum has already been earmarked for various purposes in the deficit-cutting bill.

- \$1.5 billion to help consumers pay for boxes to convert analog TV signals into digital TV signals z \$1 billion in grants to public safety agencies for interoperable communications systems
- \$30 million to reimburse TV stations in New York City for DTV transition-related costs
- \$10 million to aid low power TV stations in purchasing digital-to-analog conversion devices
- \$65 million to partially cover cost incurred by low-power TV stations in upgrading equipment from analog to digital format
- \$156 million to implement a national alert and tsunami warning system
- \$43.5 million to implement the Enhance 911 Act of 2004
- \$30 million in increased financial assistance for essential air service to certain communities

"Today's victory has been a long time coming, and is a critical win for innovation and public safety. Our nation's high tech companies gave their full support to this effort, and with strong a bipartisan effort, the job finally got done" said Rhett Dawson, president the Information Technology Industry Council.

"Because the DTV transition will lead to more products, improved public safety and economic gains, the American public will see direct benefits. With the confidence and certainty of having a hard date, America's high tech companies will go full steam ahead with new products and services that make use of this prime spectrum. The resulting innovation will benefit consumers and businesses, and ultimately lead to an even stronger American technology sector."

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