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WBU-TC Registration Recommendation to C-Band Satellite Earth Station Owners

Recently, there have been several proposals made by Mobile Service providers in the U.S. to the FCC on the potential re-use of some or all of the 3.7 – 4.2 GHz C-Band Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) by the Mobile Service (MS), specifically for the introduction of 5G services. These proposals have run the gamut from cooperative sharing to a complete reallocation of the band to the Mobile Service. Most have been predicated on the debatable claim that C-Band is highly under-utilized by FSS operations.

In response, the major U.S. satellite operators have independently created a market-based consortium, consisting of Intelsat, SES, Eutelsat and Intel, proposed to provide a commercial and technical framework which would allow the Mobile Service early access to 100 MHz of spectrum, in the 3.7 – 3.8 GHz sub-band, and then possibly more under the control of this consortium.

In the U.S., the FCC has released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on possible Mobile Service sharing in the C-Band. As a part of the NPRM, the FCC requests public comment on details set forth in the consortium's regulatory framework proposal along with requests on details from several other alternate proposals.

To ensure the continued, protected operation of Fixed Satellite services supporting television and radio distribution and collection, **all owners of C-Band receive antenna systems should register their earth stations with their associated regulatory agency as soon as possible.** This will ensure these receive systems will be taken fully into consideration when sharing, interference or other related spectrum studies are undertaken.

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