September 22, 2015

Ex Parte

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Procedures For Competitive Bidding in Auction 1000, Including Initial Clearing Target Determination, Qualifying to Bid and Bidding in Auctions 1001 (Reverse) and 1002 (Forward), AU Docket No. 14-252, GN Docket No. 12-268, WT Docket No. 12-269

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 18, 2015, Verizon representatives met with members of the Incentive Auction Task Force, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and the Office of Engineering and Technology to discuss the forward auction bidding process. Verizon representatives included: John Scott and Leora Hochstein in person and, by phone, Steve Smith, Philip Junker, John Bareham, Ibrahim Abdullah, Babak Ahmadi, Max Solondz, Ratul Guha and Charla Rath. Attending the meeting on behalf of the FCC were: Gary Epstein, Howard Symons, Margaret Wiener, Rachel Kazan, Rita Cookmeyer, Evan Kwerel, Martha Stancil, Sasha Javid, Craig Bomberger, Melissa Dunford, Barbara Pavon, and Mary Margaret Jackson.

The purpose of the meeting was to learn more about the forward auction bidding process and information bidders will receive prior to and during the auction. We stressed the importance of providing forward auction bidders with file formats as soon as possible so that bidders can understand how the FCC plans to present data during the auction. In addition, we urged the FCC to conduct multiple simulations and mock auctions. Bidders should have the opportunity to become familiar with the FCC’s auction software so that they can effectively express demand through the variety of bid options available in the incentive auction.

We also asked questions about the type of information the FCC will provide on impairments and how granular that data will be. On timing, we sought clarification on the number of days forward auction bidders will have to re-analyze impairments in the event that the clearing target is reduced and there is a new band plan. Regarding bidding mechanics, we discussed the process for expressing an increase or decrease in demand from round to round, and urged the FCC to accept changes through an automated system rather than require bidders to input information manually. Finally, we asked the FCC to explain how it will calculate the total proceeds component of the Final Stage Rule.

Sincerely,

cc: Gary Epstein
Howard Symons