

Sept. 3, 2020

Pai Touts Spectrum Actions Under His Chairmanship

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai today highlighted actions the agency has taken on spectrum during his chairmanship, including auctioning mid- and millimeter-wave band frequencies.

“We have been the most aggressive and effective FCC in history in terms of freeing up spectrum for the commercial marketplace,” Mr. Pai said during an online event hosted by the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

He noted two auctions the Commission has held of millimeter-wave band spectrum, its recently completed Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) sale (TR Daily, Aug. 25), and its planned C-band auction to begin in December.

He also noted that the FCC has been active on the unlicensed front as well, freeing up 1,200 megahertz of spectrum for unlicensed devices in the 6 GHz band (TR Daily, April 23).

As he often does, Mr. Pai also said that FCC efforts to eliminate unnecessary regulations have spurred investments, putting providers in a better position to handle the surge in voice and data traffic seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Pai also defended the FCC’s urging of providers to join a voluntary Keep Americans Connected Pledge, which nearly 800 carriers did. He also noted that some continue to provide relief to consumers even though the pledge officially ended on June 30, including waiving back late fees.

The Chairman also said that in the nearly six months that FCC employees have been working from home, the agency has been productive and unified, in part thanks to technology.

“It’s been a challenge, but technology has really helped us,” he said.- Paul Kirby,
paul.kirby@wolterskluwer.com

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