



**WCA 2006**

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## WCA Commends FCC For Setting BRS/EBS Rules

WASHINGTON, DC (April 12, 2006) – Capping a proceeding initiated by the Wireless Communications Association International (WCA) in 2002, the FCC today adopted an order that affirms in part (and changes in part) the rules for Broadband Radio Service (BRS) and Educational Broadband Service (EBS) licensees in the 2.5-2.7 GHz band. *WCA 2006* from June 27-30 in Washington, D.C. will have a number of sessions exploring the implications of the FCC decision on the growth and development of the wireless broadband industry.

The following statement is from WCA President Andrew Kreig:

“WCA applauds the FCC for acting to resolve the major outstanding regulatory issues with respect to the largest commercial broadband wireless spectrum band in lower frequencies. WCA has led the effort to have the 2.5 GHz band revised to enable widespread deployments, including mobile broadband, submitting a comprehensive proposal to the FCC in 2002 in cooperation with industry and EBS leaders. Although WCA is disappointed that the Commission has not seen fit to adopt in full the proposals of this unprecedented joint industry effort, today’s action will provide the certainty that operators and manufacturers need to complete the transition to the new 2.5 GHz band channelization plan adopted in 2004 and to deploy wireless broadband facilities that help achieve the President’s goal of universal affordable access to broadband for all Americans.”

“We are pleased the FCC adopted last week’s joint proposal by WCA and the Catholic Television Network (CTN) on the maximum permissible term of EBS spectrum leases. The decision will provide EBS licensees with the maximum flexibility to evaluate and meet their needs in the 2.5 GHz band, while giving commercial licensees the certainty they need to devote capital to the EBS band. This is a classic ‘win-win’ result that benefits educators, the commercial operators and, most importantly, consumers.”

“We are also pleased with the FCC decision to replace major economic areas (MEAs) adopted in the 2004 order with smaller basic trading areas (BTAs) as geographic benchmarks for transition to the new BRS/EBS band. BTAs are the basis for BRS licensing and more closely mirror BRS/EBS licensing patterns than any other alternatives. The BTA-based approach long advocated by WCA will facilitate transitions by limiting the geographic scope and cost of the transition process.”

“However, as with any Order as complex as this one, the devil is in the details and we will not know with certainty what effect the decision will have on the wireless broadband industry growth until we see the full text.”

**Background:** The 2.5-2.7 GHz band contains some 200 MHz of spectrum, and until the FCC’s new rules the industry has functioned under antiquated rules that have made large-scale broadband deployments unduly expensive and otherwise impractical for the most part. But the promise of new rules has showcased the band in the very forefront of platforms that can provide the long-awaited “third pipe” to break the cable/Telco duopoly of high-capacity services to customers. Among the distinguishing characteristics of this band:

- This is the largest swath of licensed spectrum in the U.S. available for commercial broadband services.
- This is the only licensed band in the U.S. designated for educational licensees, who frequently lease excess capacity to commercial providers.
- Virtually all Western Hemisphere nations – and many elsewhere in the world – have designated the spectrum for commercial wireless services, enabling economies of scale.
- This is a top-priority band for deployment of WiMAX Forum-certified equipment globally.

**About the Wireless Communications Association**

*Founded in 1988, the Wireless Communications Association represents the wireless broadband industry worldwide. Its 250 member companies include leading solutions providers on six continents. For more information, visit: [www.wcai.com](http://www.wcai.com). # # #*