

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

In the matter of

Applications of T-Mobile US, Inc., and
Sprint Corporation for Consent to Transfer
Control of Licenses and Authorization; et
al.

WT Docket No. 18-197

**COMMENTS OF THE
COMPUTER & COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**

December 5, 2019

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The Computer and Communications Industry Association (“CCIA”)¹ submits these limited comments in response to Part XI of the Order issued by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) in the above-captioned docket relating to license extensions, commitments, and proposed modifications put forward by DISH.² CCIA agrees with the Commission’s determination that “on the current record these modifications will serve the public interest”³ and urges the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (“Bureau”) to adopt them in accordance with the procedures in Section 316 of the Communications Act.

¹ CCIA represents large, medium, and small companies in the high technology products and services sectors, including computer hardware and software, electronic commerce, telecommunications, and Internet products and services. Our members employ more than 750,000 workers and generate annual revenues in excess of \$540 billion. A list of CCIA’s members is available online at <http://www.cciagnet.org/members>.

² Federal Communications Commission, *Applications of T-Mobile, US, Inc. and Sprint Corporation for Consent to Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations; et al.*, FCC 19-103, available at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-19-103A1.pdf> (“Order”).

³ Order at ¶ 365.

I. THE REQUESTED MODIFICATIONS WILL ACCELERATE DISH'S 5G DEPLOYMENT AND SPUR WIRELESS COMPETITION

On July 26, 2019, DISH submitted a Letter to the Bureau requesting certain license extensions, commitments, and proposed modifications related to its AWS-4, AWS H Block, 600 MHz, and Lower 700 MHz E Block Licenses (the “DISH Commitments”).⁴ Generally, the DISH Commitments require the company to deploy a nationwide 5G broadband network, with construction benchmarks in 2022, 2023, and 2025, and subject the company to potential fines and license forfeiture if these commitments are not met.

The Order “conclude[d] that significant public interest benefits would flow from DISH’s deployment of 5G broadband services over its spectrum holdings.”⁵ In putting forth its commitments, DISH announced “plans to deploy a first-of-its-kind 5G network built from the ground up with an architecture that can take full advantage of expected 5G functionality.”⁶ Among other benefits, harmonizing the construction deadlines for DISH’s various spectrum bands will enable the company to provide a better overall 5G service more efficiently and at lower cost. Further, by extending the March 2020 buildout deadlines in place for its AWS-4 and Lower 700 MHz E Block licenses, DISH will be able to focus fully on its 5G deployment, rather than its previously announced Phase 1 narrowband Internet of Things network build.

Because the U.S. marketplace has yet to experience a full 5G network built from the ground up without the complications of legacy infrastructure or hardware, DISH’s deployment will provide unique value for consumers across the ecosystem. DISH’s deployment will also have ripple effects across the industry: it will infuse competition into the wireless market and pressure the incumbent carriers to similarly innovate and invest. As the Commission noted, while DISH has commercial incentives to build out, the company’s failure to meet its commitments could result in fines and license forfeiture,

⁴ Letter from Jeffrey H. Blum, DISH, to Donald Stockdale, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, WT Docket No. 18-197 (July 26, 2019) (“*DISH Letter*”).

⁵ *Order* at ¶ 12.

⁶ *DISH Letter* at 2.

creating “additional financial incentives, totaling in the billions of dollars, to ensure DISH undertakes its committed buildout.”⁷

II. THE DISH COMMITMENTS WILL ADVANCE AMERICA’S 5G GOALS

The Commission has long recognized the importance of America’s leadership in 5G. As the Order explained, “[b]uilding leading 5G networks is of critical importance for our nation.”⁸ Among other things, 5G networks hold “the potential to bring enormous benefits to American consumers by delivering faster speeds and lower latency and by supporting the development of advanced applications[.]”⁹

DISH’s 5G deployment will be facilitated and accelerated by the DISH Commitments and corresponding modifications contemplated by the Order. Such deployment will promote U.S. leadership in 5G through an American company with a track record of disrupting the pay-TV industry, and they will facilitate the deployment of a first-of-its kind next generation network.

III. CONCLUSION

CCIA supports the Commission’s conclusion that the DISH Commitments are in the public interest, and encourages the Bureau to adopt them in accordance with the procedures in Section 316 of the Communications Act.

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Respectfully submitted,

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⁷ *Order* at ¶ 377.

⁸ *Id.* at ¶ 3.

⁹ *Id.*