

April 2020

What's News...

Carriers Spent Big for MMW Spectrum

The FCC's largest spectrum auction to date, making 3.4 GHz available in the upper 37 GHz, 39 GHz, and 47 GHz bands, generated \$4.47 billion in net proceeds. Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile spent the most, for which Verizon received 4,940 licenses, AT&T got 3,267, and T-Mobile 2,384. Sprint received only 127 licenses at 47 GHz, Dish Network 2,651, and U.S. Cellular 2237 licenses.

Last year, the FCC auctioned the 28 GHz and 24 GHz bands and those two auctions and this one has made available almost 5 GHz spectrum, which is more than currently used for terrestrial mobile broadband by all wireless service providers in the U.S. combined. Up next is the mid-band 3.5 GHz auction slated to start June 25, followed by the C-band auction, scheduled to begin December 8.



VW, Others Want Full 75 GHz for Autonomous Vehicles

For 20 years, 75 MHz of spectrum has been allocated for Intelligent Transportation Systems at 5.9 GHz, but the FCC now wants to reduce it to 30 MHz to make room for a 160-MHz band for Wi-Fi 6. The decision has caused Volkswagen and a variety of transportation to ask the FCC to reconsider the decision. "We cannot support the proposal to restructure parts of the ITS spectrum for unlicensed services," Volkswagen told the commission. "Without the full 75 MHz, it will become impossible to also account for future technologies and developments, which will

A Word from Sam Benzacar

5G SARS-CoV-2 Conspiracy Theories Abound

By Sam Benzacar



After more than four decades of studies, the effects of heating by electromagnetic energy are well documented but there still

is no definitive answer whether very low levels have damaging effects on the body. With so much uncertainly, the result is that anyone, no matter his or her intelligence or scientific acumen, can comment on the matter. And they are, focusing on--you guessed it--5G and how it might be either the cause of a contributing factor to the pandemic the world is currently suffering. We have social media to thank for this, which provides a global megaphone for these people and those who believe them.

The theory about the potential health effects of 5G actually long even before the virus was identified and before 5G infrastructure began to sprout. At that time, the 'theory' was that as 5G uses millimeter wavelengths and thus requires huge numbers of small cells closer to people, the risk of health effects will be present. This assumes, of course, that there is a risk, for which there is no answer.

Early this year and with increasing frequency, the pandemic has brought out the usual conspiracy mongers, such as Alex Jones' Infowars, Breitbart News, and most recently celebrities including Woody Harrelson and John Cusack. But what gave them the idea was Belgian general practitioner Kris Van Kerckhoven was interviewed by the Belgian newspaper Het Laatste Nieuws with the headline "5G is life-threatening and no one knows it." The "proof" was that Wuhan was one of the first cities in China to roll out 5GI, and not only was dangerous, noted Kerckhoven, it might be linked to the virus. It's since been deleted from the paper's Web site (and the paper apologized) but it was too late, the virtual community spreading had begun.

The interview was picked up by Facebook pages in other countries and then to English-language versions of Facebook, YouTube channels, and then to celebrities who collectively have millions of followers, and even a petition on change.org with more than 110,000 signatures. By now, the virus was proposed as weakening the immune system, causing SAR-CoV-2-type symptoms, 5G was being used as a cover to install networks, and that Bill Gates was somehow be required for future use cases. An available bandwidth of only 30 MHz limits the deployment to simplistic day-one use cases only, blocking the way to more advanced lifesaving functions."



Research Shows 5G Will Be a Major Factor in IoT

According to a market study by Juniper Research, the total number of 5G connections will reach 1.5 billion globally by 2025, from only 5 million connections this year, an annual average growth rate of 150%. The findings uncovered that growth from these 5G connections is a major new revenue stream for telecom network operators and Juniper forecasts that 5G IoT connections must be considered as new connections. They now forecast that tools, such as network slicing and multi-access edge computing solutions, will be essential to attract the highest spending commercial IoT service users to use their 5G networks.



FCC Targets TracFone for Fraud

TracFone Wireless is facing a potential \$6 million fine for allegedly defrauding a government program that provides discount telecom service to poor people. The FCC proposed the fine against TracFone saying that the prepaid wireless provider obtained FCC Lifeline funding by "enrolling fictitious subscriber accounts," receiving more than \$1 million from Lifeline. The FCC's Lifeline program, which is paid for by Americans through fees imposed on phone bills, provides monthly subsidies of up to \$9.25 per household for phone and broadband service provided to eligible low-income subscribers.



involved. Not to be left out, RT (formerly Russia Today) has been pumping out its own theories on a regular basis.

One thing's for sure: If there's a link between 5G and the virus, the breakdown won't be revealed by social media.

The Pandemic.

During these difficult times, businesses have to reflect on themselves, and make the best out of the situation. Some unfortunately can't make it, and for some, business is way down and hanging on, things do not look bright but; Since we are in the same boat.

For all those small businesses.

- 1. Get creative, maybe some hidden abilities will pop out.
- 2. Stay positive! I know its a cliche, but staying positive is part of getting thru hard times.
- 3. Learn from difficult times.
- 4. Change your ways.
- 5. Focus on what you can control.
- 6. Know what you're greatful for.
- 7. Realize you've come a long way

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF US!



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