



Play to Win: Seizing Opportunities in the FCC's Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) Auction Q&A / March 19, 2020

FAQs

Auction 105

Q: What is the chance the FCC will delay the April 9th filing date or auction due to the virus?

It is our understanding that various associations plan to request that the FCC extend the auction application window. As of this moment, the FCC has not changed the auction time line.

Q: Can you get your upfront payment back if you decide not to participate?

Yes.

Q: Can I get both a rural bidding credit and a small business credit -- so 30% discount?

No. You can only get a small business credit or a rural bidding credit. And, small business bidding credits (small vs. very small) are not cumulative.

Q: Can I hire someone to do my bidding?

There is no problem with an internal hire to handle bidding; but, if hiring a third party, there is a possibility that they might work with other bidders and that third party may become a conduit for a prohibited communication.

CBRS Spectrum

Q: What is the benefit of having PAL licenses vs GAA?

The benefit of a PAL license is that the PAL licensee has priority and a protected service area over GAA users. PALs also have exclusive use rights for 10 years with expectation of renewal, and spectrum rights can be leased, assigned, or transferred on the secondary market.

GAA operations are considered "license light" through general authority and SAS registration. They also are subject to interference from and must not cause interference to PAL and incumbent operations.



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Spectrum Access System (SAS)

Q: Please discuss how the SAS is (or multiple SAS's are) selected.

SASs are selected by way of the FCC's proposal review, testing, and certification processes. The FCC maintains authority over the SASs through Part 96 of the FCC's rules. The SASs that are currently operational were part of the "first wave" of SAS applicants.

Q: When will the SAS's be operational?

SASs are operational now.

Q: How much do the SAS services cost? And, what is the commercial relationship between the SAS and the PAL licensee?

Inquiries regarding SAS service costs and commercial relationships should be made directly to individual SAS administrators.

Updated as of March 24, 2020.