



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

DEC 9 2008

Ms. Meredith A. Baker
Acting Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Baker:

In response to your request to provide input to the FY 2008 Progress Report on the President's Spectrum Policy Initiative, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has the following accomplishments in FY 2008:

- (1) The FAA completed its bi-annual spectrum plan in September 2007. The next revision of this plan is scheduled to be completed by September 2009.
- (2) The FAA has implemented a formal process to evaluate the agency's proposed needs for spectrum, including an analysis and assessment of the most spectrum efficient options as well as alternatives available to meet these needs.
- (3) The FAA has incorporated in its Acquisition Management System Process the requirement to obtain Department of Commerce spectrum certification before procurement of major spectrum-dependent systems. This requirements is also stated in FAA Order 6050.19F, Radio Spectrum Planning.
- (4) In addition, during FY 08, the FAA continued to implement a series of technical, administrative, and regulatory initiatives to meet the increasing demand for air/ground air traffic control communications channels within the congested very high frequency band. We secured additional radio frequency allocations at a recent World Radiocommunications Conference that will allow new aeronautical safety communications in frequency bands already allocated to aeronautical radionavigation. This multi-faceted approach will maximize use of the current air-ground communications frequency bands while ensuring continued protection of critical aeronautical applications.
- (5) Using one of those newly allocated frequency bands, we initiated development of an airport local area network system capable of carrying safety critical communications. Based on proven off-the-shelf technology, the system will facilitate day-to day safety and regularity of flight applications, while also serving as a back-up transmission path for other airport safety communications.

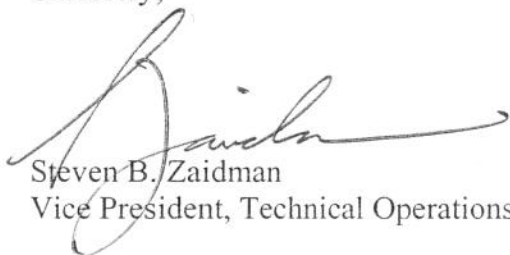
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(6) The FAA implemented methods for improving capital planning and investment control procedures consistent with the guidance provided by the Office of Management and Budget, including any modifications to agency capital planning procedures necessary to ensure greater consideration of more cost effective spectrum use. As mentioned above, the FAA has incorporated spectrum certification in its Acquisition Management System Process. The FAA and the aviation community must access the portions of the spectrum that support aviation in order to meet our shared mission. Therefore, the FAA considers this scarce resource as invaluable; and hence, we do not assign a dollar value to this spectrum. However, we must continue to manage it efficiently.

The FAA will continue striving to improve upon the efficient use of the spectrum that is utilized for aviation while ensuring that the National Airspace System remains the safest in the world.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Oscar Alvarez, Director, ATC Spectrum Engineering Services at (202) 267-7531 or oscar.alvarez@faa.gov.

Sincerely,



Steven B. Zaidman
Vice President, Technical Operations Services