



NEWS

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

News media information 202 / 632-5050
Recorded listing of releases and texts
202 / 632-0002

TDD 202/632-6999 21437

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

Report No. DC-2035

ACTION IN DOCKET CASE

January 16, 1992

INTERACTIVE VIDEO DATA SERVICE ESTABLISHED (GEN. DOCKET 91-2)

The Commission has established the Interactive Video and Data Service (IVDS) and allocated spectrum for its use.

IVDS is expected to be a convenient, low-cost system that will allow two-way interaction with commercial and educational programming, along with informational and data services that may be delivered by or coordinated with broadcast television, cable television, wireless cable, direct broadcast satellites or future television delivery methods. IVDS will be regulated as a personal radio service under Part 95 of the Commission's rules.

This action comes as a result of a petition by TV Answer, Inc., which asked the Commission to allocate spectrum in the 218-219 MHz range for IVDS using technology that TV Answer had developed. It also asked for promulgation of technical rules consistent with its proposed system design to minimize interference to TV channel 13, which occupies a nearby band.

The spectrum allocated for IVDS is currently allocated to the Automated Maritime Telecommunications System (AMTS) and is unused because necessary technical restrictions render the channels only marginally useful to AMTS.

The Commission adopted technical and operational requirements that reflect those proposed in the rulemaking notice to protect adjacent TV channel 13, television channels generally, and the adjacent frequencies that will remain allocated to AMTS.

The Commission will issue two IVDS licenses per service area. Service areas will coincide with the 734 cellular service areas. These cellular service areas are well known to the communications industry and cover the entire country.

Selection of licensees will be by lottery. The Commission adopted an abbreviated filing procedure for the lottery. It will require applicants to file only FCC Form 155 specifying the applicant's name and address, the service area number and the fee code along with a filing fee of \$1,400.00 for each application. Lottery selectees will be required to timely file a complete license application package consisting of FCC Form 574 and required showings. A Public Notice will be released later detailing specific instructions for filing lottery applications and the deadline for each market.

(over)

Concurring Statement of
Commissioner James H. Quello

RE: Interactive Video and Data Services, GEN Docket No. 91-2.

Interactive video and data services have many potential applications serving consumers, and I am particularly interested in its application for educational purposes. Today's action allocates 1 MHz of spectrum to a wireless form of interactive video. The record does not demonstrate that 1 MHz is needed at this time; therefore, I would have preferred allocating 500 kHz until demand for interactive services has been determined. We are approaching this allocation, or more appropriately stated reallocation, with a Field of Dreams concept that if you build it they will come. Spectrum is far too valuable and in demand to reallocate on such a basis.

The other side of the equation in this reallocation Order is the taking away from the maritime services spectrum allocated for communication along America's waterways. I understand that some of this spectrum is essentially unusable by the maritime industry since it is adjacent to television channel 13 and would likely cause interference to broadcast service. Therefore, other non-interfering services, such as interactive video and data services, should have access to this valuable resource. The primary concern for me then is how much spectrum should be reallocated; and 500 kHz according to the proponents of interactive video and data systems seems to be a reasonable starting point. In the event that the demand for these services exceeds a 500 kHz allocation, then consideration of additional spectrum could be made. Alternatively, if the demand for these services fails to materialize, then the Commission will reclaim unused spectrum. With my primary concern being addressed, I concur with this item.