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T-Mobile's AWS-3 Interference Claims in the U.S. Undercut by Its Successful Wireless Broadband Network in the Czech Republic

Washington, DC (July 28, 2008) – *World's Largest Phone Companies Attempt to Stop the FCC's Plans for a Lifeline Broadband Service*

For the past year, Deutsche Telekom's T-Mobile unit and AT&T, two of the largest phone companies in the world, have claimed that the FCC's proposal to require a free nationwide wireless broadband service that competes with DSL will not work because the service will cause interference to their operations in adjacent spectrum bands.

In the filings that T-Mobile made at the FCC today and on July 18th, T-Mobile asserts that broadband operations in the 2155-2180 MHz spectrum band designated by the FCC for its free "lifeline" service should not be permitted because tests conducted by its engineers demonstrate that those operations will cause interference. These filings, however, fail to mention that T-Mobile itself currently is providing broadband services that compete with DSL in the Czech Republic using similar spectrum and similar technical rules to those that the FCC plans to adopt for the free broadband service. According to information from the Czech Telecommunications Office that is in direct contrast to T-Mobile's claim here in the U.S., T-Mobile's broadband service is operating with well-established standard power limits and without having to use spectrum guard bands. To date, T-Mobile has not provided this ostensibly material information to the FCC. Instead, T-Mobile has repeatedly argued that time division duplex ("TDD") technology would be disruptive if deployed in the U.S. adjacent to its frequency division duplex ("FDD") operations in AWS-1 due to mobile-to-mobile interference. In the Czech Republic; however, T-Mobile's TDD deployment is directly adjacent to FDD operations without requiring special protections or limits to guard against mobile-to-mobile interference.

The links below demonstrate T-Mobile's regulatory doublespeak by showing that its Czech wireless broadband service has been successfully implemented and has, in fact, been expanded to operate on more than 600 base stations that cover 60% of the Czech population since it was first rolled out 2 years ago.

- See "T-Mobile's new network seeks to fill Internet access gap" *The Prague Post*, (10/26/2005) <http://www.praguepost.com/articles/2005/10/26/generation-tdd.php>
- See http://www.ipwireless.com/news/press_062005.html (June 2006) (describing the technical parameters of T-Mobile's TDD system in the Czech Republic).

- See also http://www.mobileeurope.co.uk/news_wire/113384/IPWireless_expands_T-UT (November 2007).

“I am greatly disappointed by T-Mobile, AT&T, and other phone companies continued opposition to all Americans having access to free wireless broadband services,” said John Muleta, CEO of Silicon Valley-based M2Z Networks. “These multi-billion dollar companies have the resources to affordably connect Americans to the opportunities of broadband but instead waste the country’s time by using their significant lobbying resources to gum up the FCC processes in order to stifle innovative new services and competition. As a former FCC official, I’m also particularly troubled by T-Mobile’s selective presentation of information at the FCC about the state of the art in wireless technology and interference management.”

Despite the significant public support for the FCC’s lifeline broadband proposal, T-Mobile and AT&T consistently have opposed the deployment of a free nationwide wireless broadband network. The ongoing attempts of these companies to thwart the availability of affordable broadband in the U.S. using unfounded claims of harmful interference will exacerbate America’s global competitiveness by continuing to keep poor, minority, and rural Americans from having affordable access to broadband. Currently, 71 percent of Latinos, 70 percent of low-income households, 69 percent of Americans living in rural areas, and 60 percent of African Americans are disconnected from the opportunities of broadband Internet.

“M2Z has long called for the opportunity to provide a free and family-friendly broadband service throughout the United States.” said Milo Medin, M2Z’s Chairman. “The Commission’s plan to auction the long fallow 2155-2175 MHz band for a lifeline broadband service will kick start broadband competition, lower prices, and provide all Americans equal access to the myriad of benefits that comes from being connected to the high-speed Internet.”

About M2Z Networks:

Founded in 2005 and headquartered in Menlo Park, Calif., M2Z Networks’ goal is to transform the current state of the broadband marketplace by building a new high-speed wireless network throughout the United States. The FCC has recently drafted proposed rules that would require a spectrum auction for a slice of fallow spectrum in which the licensee would have to guarantee the delivery of free, fast and family-friendly wireless broadband service to at least 95 percent of Americans within a 10 year timeframe. M2Z is backed by Kleiner, Perkins, Caufield and Byers; Charles River Ventures; and Redpoint Ventures; three of the most successful venture capital firms in Silicon Valley with \$5 billion of capital under management. For more information, please visit www.M2Znetworks.com and www.FreeBroadbandNow.org.

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