



Advancing Opportunity,
Prosperity, and Growth

March 25, 2014

Washington, DC – On March 24th, The Hamilton Project at Brookings hosted a forum on ways to promote the economic efficiency of wireless spectrum in the United States.

The forum began with welcoming remarks by Hamilton Project co-founder Roger Altman, and framing remarks by Hamilton Project director Melissa Kearney highlighting a new policy memo on the economic promise of wireless spectrum.

- [Read the new Hamilton Project framing paper.](#)
- [Watch the video of the opening and framing remarks.](#)
- [Download audio of the opening and framing remarks.](#)

A roundtable panel of experts discussed a [new policy proposal](#) by Pierre de Vries, Co-Director of the Spectrum Policy Initiative at the Silicon Flatirons Center, and Phil J. Weiser, Dean of the University of Colorado Law School, describing the importance of moving toward a more economically efficient system for managing the use of wireless spectrum. Industry experts joined the roundtable discussion, including Dean Brenner, Senior Vice President, Qualcomm; Joan Marsh, Vice President for Federal Regulatory Affairs, AT&T; and Preston Marshall, Wireless Networking, Google. Blair Levin, Communications & Society Fellow, the Aspen Institute, moderated the discussion.

- [Read the new proposal by de Vries and Weiser.](#)
- [Watch the video of the roundtable discussion.](#)
- [Download audio of the roundtable discussion.](#)

The forum concluded with [keynote remarks](#) by Federal Communications Chairman Thomas Wheeler. In his remarks, Wheeler discussed efforts to implement previous work by the President’s Council of Advisors on Science & Technology (PCAST) on enhanced spectrum sharing: “Very soon I will circulate to my fellow Commissioners detailed proposed rules designed to make the PCAST vision a reality.”

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“First, the proposal would include three tiers of prioritization: federal and nonfederal incumbents, priority access licensees, and general authorized access users. The three-tiered construct was a key aspect of the PCAST report, and is necessary to realizing the full potential of spectrum sharing.”

“Second, it would include a single, highly flexible band plan, avoiding the analog trap of Balkanizing spectrum into sub-bands, each with its own set of rules.”

“Third, the proposal would anticipate a wide range of flexible uses. Small cells will undoubtedly be a core use case, but we would not limit the band to such use.”

Wheeler also noted that the proposal would reflect “economic incentives,” setting up a flexible auction and licensing scheme that “leverages the technical capabilities of a Spectrum Access System database.”

- [Read Chairman Wheeler’s remarks as prepared for delivery.](#)
- [Watch the video of Chairman Wheeler’s remarks.](#)
- [Download audio of Chairman Wheeler’s remarks.](#)

Additional information on the event can be [found here](#), including photos and the full transcript.

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