

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Spectrum Networks Group, LLC) WT Docket No. 14-100
Waiver Request to Provide Commercial)
Machine-to-Machine Service on 900 MHz)
Business/Industrial/Land Transportation Channels)

To: Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

**REPLY COMMENTS
OF THE
ENTERPRISE WIRELESS ALLIANCE**

The Enterprise Wireless Alliance (“EWA” or “Alliance”), in accordance with Section 1.45 of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) rules, respectfully submits its Reply Comments in the above-entitled proceeding.¹ The Comments filed in this proceeding confirm the Alliance’s position that the waiver request (“Waiver”) filed by Spectrum Networks Group, LLC (“SNG”) requesting authority for SNG, through its subsidiary, M2M Spectrum Networks, LLC (“M2M”), to provide commercial, third-party service to meet the machine-to-machine (“m2m”) communications needs of entities eligible to use 900 MHz Business/Industrial/Land Transportation (“B/ILT”) channels should be denied.

A fundamental deficiency in the Waiver is the failure to even allege, much less substantiate, that the system SNG says it intends to deploy cannot be accommodated on spectrum that would not require a waiver of the FCC rules. Neither the Waiver nor any of SNG’s supplemental filings

¹ Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Seeks Comment on Spectrum Networks Group, LLC Applications and Waiver Request to Allow it to Provide Private, Internal Machine-to-Machine Communications to Businesses on 900 MHz Business/Industrial/Land Transportation Channels, *Public Notice*, WT Docket No. 14-100, DA 14-980 (rel. July 9, 2014) (“Public Notice”).

address whether the proposed system will be used for base-mobile communications, the primary authorized use of this 900 MHz spectrum, as opposed to fixed applications. However, the comments filed by entities such as Automated Refreshment Services (“ARS”) and Mellish Eye Associates confirm what EWA assumed, which is that the primary focus of an m2m network would be for fixed, not mobile, services. It appears, therefore, that SNG will require waivers both to license a commercial system on these 900 MHz Business/Industrial/Land Transportation (“B/ILT”) frequencies and to operate a system wherein fixed operations are a primary, not secondary, offering. Given the scope of the waiver relief needed, it is incumbent on SNG to explain why its system cannot be deployed, for example, in the 217-220 MHz band in which Raveon Technologies Corporation says it already has equipment, in the 3.65 GHz band, where SNG’s vision of nationwide service might actually be achievable,² or in any number of unlicensed bands that the FCC has made available for such services.

EWA also urges the FCC to consider the issues and questions raised in the comments filed by the Utilities Telecom Council (“UTC”) and by Motorola Solutions, Inc. (“MSI”). UTC, like the Alliance, disputed SNG’s claim that it is “inefficient” to provide m2m services on broadband networks, a claim that is so erroneous as to call into question SNG’s and M2M’s understanding of advanced wireless technology. UTC also emphasized that many critical infrastructure industry (“CII”) users require additional 900 MHz frequencies to expand capacity and/or coverage. It

² The supporting comments from potential vendors to SNG all reference a nationwide network. As explained in previous EWA filings, there are no available 900 MHz B/ILT frequencies in and around the most populated markets in the county. SNG certainly is free to purchase frequencies from existing licensees but the Alliance is concerned that those vendors might not be aware of the important limitations on freely available frequencies in what they likely would consider critical markets for business opportunities.

argued that allowing SNG to license these frequencies pursuant to a waiver would exacerbate an existing, growing shortage of spectrum for this purpose.

MSI raised a number of important questions that require a response in order to determine the validity of the arguments SNG has advanced in favor of the Waiver. In particular, MSI has requested information regarding the technology proposed for this m2m network, including questions about the network configuration and the number of frequencies that reasonably would be needed based on M2M's intended market. EWA questions whether the low-speed, narrowband technology Raveon has available is a credible competitor to the capabilities inherent in broadband systems that actually have nationwide availability and sufficient density of coverage to serve the indoor, often below ground, needs of potential users such as ARS, the sole prospective user that has been identified by SNG³. These matters must be addressed before waiver relief is granted.

Certain comments filed in support of the Waiver raise an additional, troubling issue. SNG has stated repeatedly that it will limit its service to users that are eligible to operate on 900 MHz B/ILT frequencies. In its Comments in this proceeding, EWA noted that the relevant condition in SNG's supplemental filing was overbroad since it proposed limiting the network to serving "Part 90 eligible entities." The Alliance cautioned that such a definition would include public safety entities that are not eligible for 900 MHz B/ILT frequencies. But Edge Communications Solutions LLC's supporting comments state that the M2M network "will bring countless advantages to businesses, consumers, and the economy in general..."⁴ The TrueNet Communications comments describe the proposed network as "providing advanced services to the public."⁵ Filings such as

³ EWA appreciates Dr. Mellish's enthusiasm for the company in which he has invested and has recommended as an investment to others but cannot credit the possibility that the highly sophisticated medical applications he describes will be implemented on 12.5 kHz bandwidth channels offering relatively low-speed data service in limited areas of the county.

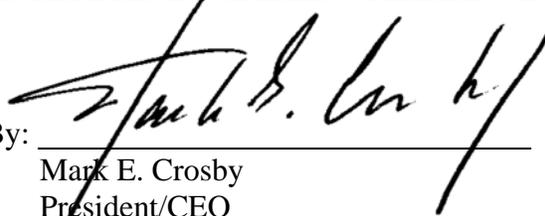
⁴ See Comments of Edge Communications Solution LLC dated July 22, 2014

⁵ See Comments of TrueNet Communications dated July 30, 2014.

these call into question the scope of SNG's intended market, or at least the scope of the market described to vendors, presumably the potential market that has triggered the filing of these supportive filings.

As stated in its Comments, EWA submits that there are more than sufficient deficiencies in the Waiver and the supplemental filing to justify FCC denial of SNG's request. Should the FCC nevertheless conclude that waiver relief is appropriate, then it should condition its grant consistent with the recommendations in the Alliance's Comments in this proceeding.

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