

Continuing the Path of America's 5G Success.



In the United States, our approach is private-sector driven and private-sector led... And leading through the government, we don't want to do that because it won't be nearly as good, nearly as fast.

— PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP



We think the best way for the government to proceed is to create the building blocks for 5G innovation and then let the private sector take the lead.

— FCC CHAIRMAN AJIT PAI

The United States has made remarkable progress in the past two years deploying 5G networks. The President said last year that a nationalized network “won’t be nearly as good, nearly as fast.” He was right. Thanks to a private sector driven approach, the U.S. has the fastest 5G speeds and is poised to be the largest country with three nationwide 5G networks.

Central to that approach has been the auctioning of new spectrum—raising billions of dollars and providing key new access to commercial providers. The FCC will have two significant mid-band auctions this year and the White House announced a third auction next year.

DoD is now proposing a radical departure from that winning formula, releasing a RFI suggesting to dedicate hundreds of megahertz of critical mid-band spectrum to a DoD-operated national 5G wholesale network.

A nationalized network approach would be bad for the U.S., bad for rural, and bad for U.S. military readiness. The President’s free-market vision has unlocked our 5G economy future, boosted wireless investment, and helped push ahead of key 5G competitors like China.

A Nationalized Network: Risks, Problems, and Failures

The U.S. already has 5G networks. Thanks to \$100+ billion in private capital invested in the past few years alone, the U.S. is poised to have three nationwide 5G networks and the fastest 5G. These initial 5G networks already cover hundreds of millions of Americans and one operator has already committed to soon serve over 90% of rural Americans. Restarting from scratch with a new, untested approach makes no sense. The idea has rightfully been universally panned on a bipartisan basis.

Nationalized 5G won’t work. DoD doesn’t have experience, interest or legal authority to build such a 5G network. Companies pushing the nationalized approach, like Rivada, have never actually built a nationwide network. In fact, Rivada lost bids to build networks in Mexico and the U.S. and doesn’t have the experience needed to build a 5G network, let alone build one quickly. The federal government has already questioned their network planning, security, funding and leadership. Neither the government—nor any company promising a nationalized 5G network—can start from scratch and build a nationwide network in less than 3 years’ time, with no fiber, no towers, and no plan.



We're not Venezuela — we don't need to have the government run everything as the only choice... A government that can't protect the data of its own employees — I just struggle with the notion it's going to run a complete architecture and network that will be hack-free.

— REPRESENTATIVE
GREG WALDEN (R-OR)



We didn't gain our global lead in 3G and maintain our global first place position in 4G by turning to the federal government for a nationalized solution. The U.S. wireless industry remains the best equipped to build, deploy, and secure 5G networks.

— SENATOR TED CRUZ

Nationalized wireless doesn't work. Other countries experimented with nationalized networks and failed. For example, in 2011, Russia gave away spectrum to a company that promised lower prices and sweeping deployments via a wholesale network built with Huawei equipment. Three years later, that company gave up after reaching barely a quarter of Russia. Meanwhile, in that same time, the U.S. industry built out LTE to nearly 96 percent of Americans. Similar misguided experiments also failed in South Africa and Mexico.

A massive spectrum giveaway. This isn't about dynamic spectrum sharing, it is about delivering on high-profile D.C. insiders' demands for billions of dollars' worth of spectrum for free. The only winners would be those lobbyists, as U.S. consumers and American global competitiveness would suffer. A nationalized approach would also forgo billions in spectrum auction revenue that DoD could use to enhance our military's readiness by upgrading to cutting-edge systems.

A risky mid-band gamble. The U.S. has worked for years to get 350 MHz of mid-band spectrum to commercial operators. The DoD RFI suggests giving away that same amount of spectrum to untested companies with no capabilities to do the job. We can't give up almost half of the nation's available spectrum in this band.

Staying the Course of U.S. 5G Leadership

Wisdom of the U.S. approach. Smart policies based on competition in a free and open market helped the U.S. become the 4G leader, doubling U.S. wireless-related jobs in just three years and driving nearly \$100 billion in GDP growth. Consumers also get more value from today's 4G networks with faster speeds, more data, and savings each year of \$130 billion compared to 2010 prices. Now, thanks to significant wireless investment and policies making more spectrum available and streamlining infrastructure rules, U.S. wireless providers are bringing high-speed 5G mobile connectivity across the country, from Cedar Rapids to Sioux Falls and beyond.

Continuing Administration's mid-band 5G leadership. In August, the White House announced an auction of 3.45-3.55 GHz next year and continued study of how to provide traditional commercial access to 3.1-3.45 GHz. That should remain the priority with goal of auctioning more than 100 MHz of that key band. There is too much at stake to seriously consider far-fetched ideas like a nationalized network approach.