

U.S. Does Not Have Enough Spectrum to Meet 5G Demand

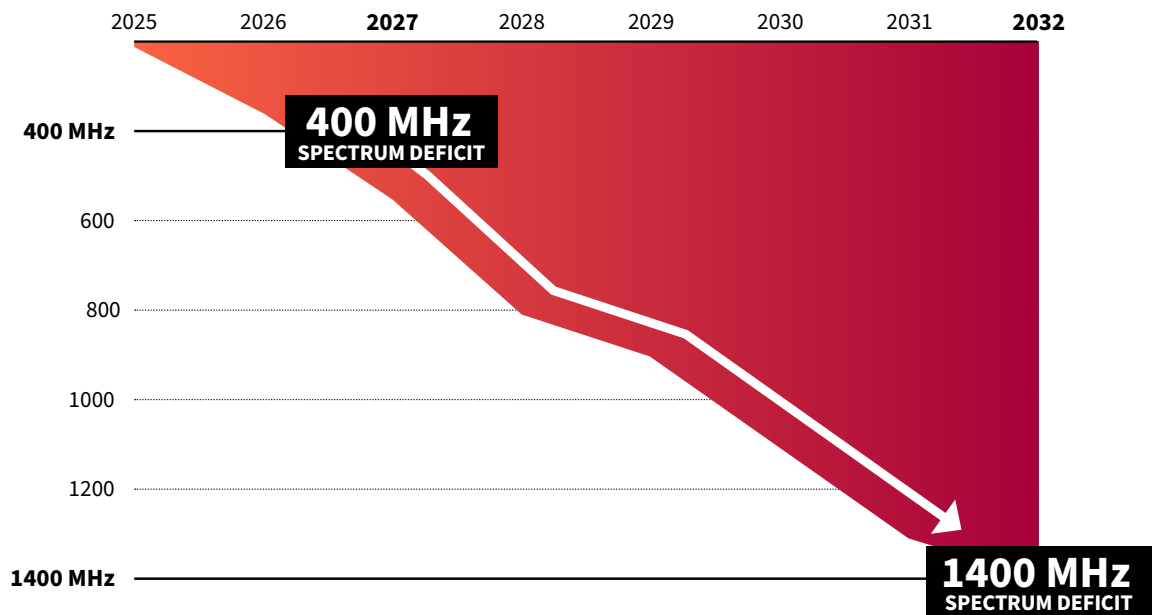
A new report from Brattle Group finds the U.S. needs 400 megahertz of full power, licensed mid-band spectrum in the next five years to meet projected demand. This deficit will grow by more than 3x to over 1,400 megahertz by 2032. The report provides Congress and the Administration clear new targets to meet to ensure U.S. economic and national security.

According to the report, failure to address this deficit would lead to “poor customer experience, network overload, and otherwise risk forfeiting U.S. leadership in 5G and beyond.”

Exploding demand for wireless data and an empty spectrum pipeline jeopardizes America’s 5G leadership

The Brattle Group studied projected network capacity and the tools available to wireless operators to meet that demand. They conclude that wireless networks will fall short of meeting demand in a few years absent new spectrum access, resulting in a capacity deficit of over 10 exabytes/month. In ten years, by 2032, this deficit could grow to approximately 17 exabytes/month. This means, by 2027, the U.S. is expected to have a spectrum deficit of nearly 400 megahertz. By 2032, this deficit could more than triple to over 1,400 megahertz.

GROWING SPECTRUM DEFICIT



More full-power, licensed spectrum is essential to continuing our 5G leadership

To address this challenge, Congress must renew the FCC’s authority to auction spectrum for licensed commercial use, and the government must develop a robust pipeline of full power, licensed spectrum for 5G. Other countries, such as China, have already acted to address this challenge to their networks, allocating an average of 198 MHz more 5G spectrum than the United States. The time to act is now to ensure the U.S. leads in future wireless innovation from manufacturing to health care.