

The Spectrum Harmonization Landscape

According to Accenture, allocating internationally harmonized mid-band spectrum for 5G can add up to \$200B to America's economy over the next 10 years. Failure to harmonize our 5G spectrum allocations puts these benefits at risk, isolating our wireless industry and jeopardizing "future leadership of the global wireless ecosystem." The international community is rapidly coalescing around four bands to support their 5G networks. To maintain our 5G leadership, meet exploding demand and build the foundation for future innovation and growth, policymakers must move quickly to maximize the opportunities remaining in these bands.

3 GHz

The lower 3 GHz band is a core 5G workhorse with more than 50 countries using it today. The U.S. is behind the curve, having lost two years to an incomplete DoD study that NTIA is redoing. In dozens of countries U.S. military systems coexist with 5G in this band, proving that at least 150 MHz can be freed up for full-power, licensed use.

4 GHz

The 4 GHz band is increasingly harmonized for full-power 5G use around the world. The U.S. has not made any significant progress on studying the band and it is not included for consideration in the Biden Administration's National Spectrum Strategy.

6 GHz

In the United States, this band is dedicated to unlicensed use. However, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and growing parts of the Asia-Pacific region are licensing the upper portion of the band for 5G. The global trend toward licensing 6.425-7.125 GHz is likely to expand, giving U.S. policymakers few options to keep up.

7/8 GHz

The 7/8 GHz band is one of the few near-term options for U.S. leadership in harmonizing the next wave of mobile spectrum. 5G radios can tune across upper 6 into the 7 GHz band, allowing the U.S. to support and benefit from economies of scale for 5G in the 6 GHz band.

