

**DESCRIPTION OF TRANSACTION  
AND PUBLIC INTEREST STATEMENT**

By this FCC Form 603 assignment application, the applicants respectfully request consent to the assignment of 700 MHz A-Block spectrum by David Miller (“Assignor”) to T-Mobile License LLC (“Assignee” and, together with Assignor, the “Parties”), as described herein.

This assignment involves only the transfer of spectrum; it does not involve any transfer of network or other assets or customers. The assignment will augment the spectrum holdings of Assignee, expanding capacity and thereby benefiting consumers. For the reasons set forth below, the Parties submit that Commission approval of the proposed assignment is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

**Description of the Parties**

Assignee is a wholly-owned subsidiary of T-Mobile USA, Inc. (“T-Mobile USA”) and, indirectly, T-Mobile US, Inc. (“T-Mobile US”), a publicly traded company, and part of the family of companies that operate under the T-Mobile® brand names. Deutsche Telekom AG, a publicly-traded German company based in Bonn, Germany (“DT”), holds a 66.21 percent interest in T-Mobile US through its wholly-owned subsidiary T-Mobile Global Zwischenholding GmbH (“T-Mobile Global”). This subsidiary owns all of the equity and voting interests of T-Mobile Global Holding GmbH (“T-Mobile Holding”), which owns all of the equity and voting interests of Deutsche Telekom Holding B.V. (“DT Holding B.V.”), which in turn holds the 66.21 percent interest in T-Mobile US. The remaining 33.79 percent interest in T-Mobile US is held by public shareholders. Led by a management team with decades of collective experience in the telecommunications industry, T-Mobile US is headquartered in Bellevue, Washington, offers nationwide wireless voice and data services to consumer and business customers and provides service to over 50 million subscribers. The Commission has repeatedly found that Assignee and its controlling companies have the requisite character and qualifications to hold Commission authorizations.<sup>1</sup> An FCC Form 602 providing current ownership information for Assignee is on file with the Commission.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., *Applications of Deutsche Telekom AG, T-Mobile USA, Inc., and MetroPCS Communications, Inc. for Consent to Transfer of Control of Licenses and Authorizations*, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Declaratory Ruling, 28 FCC Rcd 2322, ¶ 19 (WTB/IB 2013) (“*T-Mobile-MetroPCS Order*”); *Applications of T-Mobile USA, Inc. and SunCom Wireless Holdings, Inc.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 23 FCC Rcd 2515, 2519-20 ¶ 10 (2008).

<sup>2</sup> Based on prior guidance from the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, the Form 602 filing for T-Mobile USA satisfies the ownership reporting requirements of Sections 1.919 and 1.2112(a) of the Commission’s rules for its wholly-owned subsidiaries. See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.919, 1.2112(a); see also *Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Answers Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Reporting of Ownership Information on FCC Form 602*, Public Notice, 14 FCC Rcd 8261, 8264-65 (WTB 1999) (“Form 602 FAQ’s”).

Assignor is an individual with experience in the telecommunications industry. Assignor's holdings consist of the license that is the subject of the instant application. Assignor's financial, technical, and legal qualifications to hold and control FCC licenses are matters of public record. An FCC Form 602 providing current ownership information for Assignor is on file with the Commission.

### **Description of the Transaction**

Each of the Parties is a party to a License Purchase Agreement dated as of September 11, 2014 (the "Purchase Agreement"). Assignor currently holds the 700 MHz A-Block license described in Attachment A hereto (the "License"). Pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, Assignor has agreed to assign to Assignee, and Assignee has agreed to accept, the full spectrum bandwidth in the full license area of the License.

### **Transition Issues**

The transaction involves only the assignment of spectrum and does not include the transfer of any other assets, facilities or customers. There will be no loss of an existing service provider in any of the market areas subject to the transaction at issue. Assignor is not providing service to end-user customers on the License. Thus, there will be no discontinuance, reduction, loss or impairment of service to customers.

The Parties intend to consummate the subject transaction promptly following Commission consent by "Final Order" (unless finality is waived by Assignee) and the satisfaction of certain contractual conditions.

### **Public Interest Statement**

Section 310(d) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), requires that the Commission determine whether the transaction presented herein is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.<sup>3</sup> To make that assessment, the Commission generally considers four factors: "(1) whether the transaction would result in the violation of the Act or any other applicable statutory provision; (2) whether the transaction would result in a violation of Commission rules; (3) whether the transaction would substantially frustrate or impair the Commission's implementation or enforcement of the Act or interfere with the objectives of that and other statutes; and (4) whether the transaction promises to yield affirmative public interest benefits."<sup>4</sup> As part of its public interest analysis, the Commission reviews whether the

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<sup>3</sup> Section 310(d) provides that "no construction permit, or station license, or any rights thereunder, shall be transferred, assigned, or disposed of in any matter . . . to any person except upon application to the Commission and upon finding by the Commission that the public interest, convenience, and necessity will be served thereby." 47 U.S.C. § 310(d).

<sup>4</sup> *SBC Communications Inc. and BellSouth Corp.*, 15 FCC Rcd 25459, 25464 (WTB/IB 2000) (citation omitted); *Ameritech Corp. and SBC Communications Inc.*, 14 FCC Rcd 14712, 14737-38 (1999) ("*Ameritech-SBC Order*"); see also *EchoStar Communications Corp.*, (a Nevada Corp.), *Gen. Motors Corp.*, and *Hughes Electronics*

transaction will have anti-competitive effects and, if so, whether there are overriding public interest benefits that would support a grant.

The Commission has determined that transfer and assignment applications that demonstrate on their face that a transaction will yield affirmative public interest benefits and will neither violate the Act or Commission rules nor frustrate or undermine policies and enforcement of the Act do not require extensive review and expenditures of considerable resources by the Commission.<sup>5</sup> The instant application meets this standard.<sup>6</sup>

The assignment from Assignor to Assignee will yield clear public interest benefits by allowing Assignee to expand its 700 MHz footprint and thus offer improved services to its customers, thereby enabling Assignee to become a stronger competitor in the market relevant to the License and nationwide. Thus, Commission approval of this application will enhance competition and improve the quality of services in the wireless marketplace.

The assignment proposed herein will not result in any violation of the Act or any other applicable statutory provision. Moreover, the assignment fully complies with all Commission rules and regulations and requires no waivers. Therefore, it does not frustrate or impair the Commission's implementation, enforcement, or objectives of the Act or other statutes.

Finally, the License was initially licensed by the Commission more than three years ago and is not currently subject to any installment financing. The License was subject to bidding credits and restrictions on ownership based on designated entity status, but because the License was granted more than five (5) years ago, there will be no requirement to repay any portion of the bidding credit in connection with the assignment of the License to Assignee; therefore, Commission approval of the assignment would not result in any unjust enrichment concerns.<sup>7</sup>

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*Corp (Delaware Corp.) (Transferors) and EchoStar Communications Corp. (a Delaware Corp.) (Transferee)*, 17 FCC Rcd 20559, 20574 (2002); *WorldCom, Inc. and MCI Communications Corp.*, 13 FCC Rcd 18025, 18030-32 (1998); *Merger of MCI Communications Corporation and British Telecommunications plc*, 12 FCC Rcd 15351, 15367-68 (1997).

<sup>5</sup> See *Tele-Communications, Inc. and AT&T Corp.*, 14 FCC Rcd 3160, 3170 (1999); *Ameritech-SBC Order*, 14 FCC Rcd at 14740-41.

<sup>6</sup> The Commission has emphasized that a detailed showing of benefits is not required for transactions where there are no anti-competitive effects. The Commission stated in *Southern New England Telecomm. Corp. and SBC Communications Inc.*, 13 FCC Rcd 21292, 21315 (1998), that, in the absence of anti-competitive effects, a detailed showing of benefits is not necessary in seeking approval of a merger. Similarly, as the Commission stated in its approval of the SBC/Pacific Telesis merger, where it found that the merger would not reduce competition and that SBC possessed the requisite qualifications to control the licenses in question, "[a] demonstration that benefits will arise from the transfer is not . . . a prerequisite to our approval, provided that no foreseeable adverse consequences will result from the transfer." *Pacific Telesis Group and SBC Communications Inc.*, 12 FCC Rcd 2624, 2626-27 (1997); see also *Comcast Cellular Holdings, Inc. and SBC Communications, Inc.*, 14 FCC Rcd 10604, 10608-09 (WTB 1999).

<sup>7</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 1.2111.

### **Spectrum Aggregation/Competition Analysis**

As discussed below, this assignment -- which will not reduce the number of competitors, service offerings or customer choices in any market -- does not raise any spectrum aggregation or competitive concerns.

Spectrum Aggregation and Competitive Analysis. Because Assignee, post-consummation, will hold only between 52 and 92 MHz of attributable spectrum in all of the 7 counties subject to the instant assignment, Assignee's spectrum aggregation will be well below current levels requiring further competitive review (*see Exhibit 2*).<sup>8</sup>

This assignment does not raise any competitive or other public interest concerns. As discussed above, there will be no loss of an existing service provider in the market area subject to the transaction at issue. Assignor is not using the License to provide service to end-user customers. Thus, there will be no discontinuance, reduction, loss or impairment of service to end-user customers of its own or a reduction in the number of actual competitors providing service. Moreover, there are numerous other carriers holding CMRS spectrum in the market in which Assignee is acquiring spectrum (*see Exhibit 3*), which will ensure that a high degree of competition continues to exist.

### **Foreign Ownership of Assignee**

As noted above, Assignee is a wholly-owned subsidiary of T-Mobile USA. T-Mobile USA in turn is a wholly owned direct subsidiary of T-Mobile US, a U.S.-organized entity. DT, a publicly-traded German corporation,<sup>9</sup> holds a 66.21 percent interest in T-Mobile US and, indirectly, in T-Mobile USA through the intermediate companies described above.

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<sup>8</sup> Prior to September 9, 2014, the Commission's initial spectrum screen identified, for further case-by-case market analysis, those markets in which, post transaction, the applicable party would have a 10 percent or greater interest in 102 MHz or more of cellular, PCS, SMR, 700 MHz and WCS spectrum where neither BRS nor AWS-1 spectrum is available; 121 MHz or more of spectrum where BRS spectrum is available but AWS-1 spectrum is not available; 132 MHz or more of spectrum where AWS-1 spectrum is available but BRS spectrum is not available; or 151 MHz or more of spectrum where both AWS-1 and BRS spectrum are available. *See AT&T/Leap Order* 29 FCC Rcd at 2753 ¶ 41, n. 141. In June 2014, the Commission updated the spectrum screen by (i) adding the following spectrum to the screen: total amount of 600 MHz (after incentive auction ends), 40 MHz of AWS-4, 10 MHz of H Block, 12 MHz of BRS, 89 MHz of EBS and 65 MHz of AWS-3 (as available, market by market); and (ii) deleting the following: 12.5 MHz of SMR and 10 MHz that was the upper 700 MHz D Block. *See Policies Regarding Mobile Spectrum Holdings, Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions*, Report and Order, FCC 14-63, ¶¶ 70-135 (rel. June 2, 2014). The related rules became effective on Sept. 9, 2014, *i.e.*, 60 days after the July 11, 2014 date of publication in the *Federal Register*. The aggregate spectrum holdings of Assignee fall even further below the levels of this updated screen.

<sup>9</sup> Germany is a signatory to the World Trade Organization ("WTO") Basic Agreement on Telecommunications.

On December 30, 2013, the Commission granted, subject to certain conditions, T-Mobile US's Petition for Declaratory Ruling under Section 310(b)(4) of the Communications Act on behalf of its subsidiaries and affiliates holding common carrier radio licenses that it would not serve the public interest to prohibit more than 25 percent foreign ownership in T-Mobile US.<sup>10</sup> That ruling also specifically permitted: (i) the specific foreign entities with a non-controlling interest in T-Mobile US (*i.e.*, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau and the Federal Republic of Germany ("FRG")), to increase their equity and/or voting interests, at some future time up to and including a non-controlling indirect 49.99 percent equity and/or voting interest; and (ii) the specific foreign entities with a controlling interest in T-Mobile US (*i.e.*, DT Holding B.V., T-Mobile Holding, T-Mobile Global and DT) to increase their interests, at some future time, up to and including 100 percent of T-Mobile US's equity and/or voting interests.<sup>11</sup> T-Mobile US's petition was filed in connection with an internal corporate reorganization that resulted in the insertion of a new direct parent company, DT Holding B.V., a limited liability company organized in the Netherlands, into T-Mobile US's ownership chain. That declaratory ruling includes all authority available under the rules, including the standard terms and conditions set forth in Section 1.994 of the rules, and thus extends to Assignee (among other licensee subsidiaries of T-Mobile USA) and the type of wireless service license that is the subject of the instant transaction. The foreign ownership in the licensees as approved has not materially changed since December 30, 2013 and will not be affected by the instant transaction.

### **Compliance with DOJ/FBI/DOD Agreement by Assignee**

Assignee also requests that the Commission condition its grant of the assignment of the License on compliance with the provisions of the Agreement entered into on January 12, 2001, as amended, between DT, VoiceStream Wireless Corporation and VoiceStream Wireless Holding Corporation, on the one hand, and the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, on the other (the "Agreement").<sup>12</sup> The Agreement prescribed that the following specific language be included in the conditional grant of interests in FCC licenses in the specific context of the Agreement:

It is further ordered, that the authorizations and the licenses related thereto are subject to compliance with the provisions of the Agreement attached

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<sup>10</sup> See File No. ISP-PDR-20130924-00006 (filed Sept. 24, 2013 and supplemented Oct. 24, 2013); *International Authorizations Granted*, Public Notice, Report No. TEL-01650, DA 14-24 (rel. Jan. 9, 2014).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> See *Applications of VoiceStream Wireless Corp., Powertel, Inc. and Deutsche Telekom, AG*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 16 FCC Rcd 9779, Appendix B (2001) (Agreement between DT, VoiceStream Wireless Corporation, VoiceStream Wireless Holding Corporation, the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation dated Jan. 12, 2001). The Agreement was amended in 2008 to add the Department of Homeland Security as a party and also amended in 2013 in connection with license transfers associated with the T-Mobile/MetroPCS transaction. See *Applications of T-Mobile USA, Inc. and SunCom Wireless Holding, Inc.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 23 FCC Rcd 2515, Appendix B (2008); *T-Mobile/MetroPCS Order*, 28 FCC Rcd at Appendix B, Amendment No. 2.

hereto between Deutsche Telekom AG, VoiceStream Wireless Corporation, VoiceStream Wireless Holding Corporation on the one hand, and the Department of Justice (the “DOJ”) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (the “FBI”) on the other, dated January 12, 2001, which Agreement is designed to address national security, law enforcement, and public safety issues of the FBI and the DOJ regarding the authority granted herein. Nothing in the Agreement is intended to limit any obligation imposed by Federal law or regulation including, but not limited to, 47 U.S.C. § 222(a) and (c)(1) and the FCC’s implementing regulations.<sup>13</sup>

Assignee hereby requests that the Commission impose a similar condition on the grant of the assignment of the License to it.

### **Conclusion**

The Parties respectfully submit that Assignee is qualified to obtain the License and that Commission approval of the requested assignment will serve the public interest, convenience and necessity.<sup>14</sup> Accordingly, the Parties respectfully request that the Commission grant the instant application.

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<sup>13</sup> *Applications of VoiceStream Wireless Corp., Powertel, Inc. and Deutsche Telekom, AG*, 16 FCC Rcd at Appendix B, Exhibit A (Condition to FCC Licenses).

<sup>14</sup> *See Promoting Efficient Use of Spectrum Through Elimination of Barriers to the Development of Secondary Markets*, 18 FCC Rcd 20604 (2003).

**ATTACHMENT A**

License

Area	FCC Call Sign	Counties Included	Channel Block	Frequencies (MHz)	Exp. Date
BEA157-EI Paso, TX	WQIZ583	All counties in FCC Market No. BEA157	A	698.0-704.0 MHz & 728.0-734.0 MHz	6/13/2019