Wireless Innovation Forum Spectrum Sharing Committee Publishes Spectrum Access System Functional Architecture Document

For Immediate Release

Washington, DC – 17 September 2015 – The Wireless Innovation Forum's Spectrum Sharing Committee (SSC) announced today that it has published a Spectrum Access System (SAS) Functional Architecture which details the responsibilities of and relationships between various components of the Citizens' Broadband Radio Service (CBRS). This document represents the first balloted document from the new committee, and provides a high level view of the SAS interfaces agreed upon by all members.

"Nokia sees this as a major achievement for unlocking the 3.5 GHz spectrum for commercial use," said Al Jette, Head of North American Standards for Nokia and member of the Forum's SSC. "The WInnForum Spectrum Sharing Committee members collaborated to determine and approve an architecture from which we are now defining requirements and interface protocol standards."

Announced in February (http://groups.winnforum.org/d/do/7966), the SCC supports four working groups, each collaborating working on separate aspects of a common goal: to ensure that the 3.5 GHz band can be successfully commercialized. The SSC working groups are:
- Operational and Functional Requirements (Interoperability Focus)
- Security Requirements
- Protocol Specifications
- Testing and Certification

The SSC was specifically formed to develop the solutions and standards that will encourage rapid development of the CBRS ecosystem, protect incumbent operations, and benefit all potential stakeholders in the band. The newly published document, found here http://groups.winnforum.org/d/do/8512, provides a common basis of discussion for the work groups.

The SSC benefits from participation of a broad based group that includes wireless carriers, network equipment manufacturers, potential SAS Administrators, satellite operators, existing 3650-3700 MHz band licensees, and other parties with an interest in the 3550 MHz band. The committee has formed multiple sub-groups/task groups, including a Joint WG1/WG3 architecture group and a FSS Incumbent protection Subgroup under WG1. Participation in these work groups and task groups currently encompasses some 120 participants from over 40 different organizations. In its comments, the group commended the Commission for providing industry the opportunity to develop answers to the questions and issues raised in the Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) rules.

Completion of the architecture document follows comments the group made to the FCC in response to its Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Matter of Amendment of the Commission's Rules with Regard to Commercial Operations in the 3550-3650 MHz Band to continue the development of flexible sharing rules in the 3.5 GHz band under the Report and Order.

In the two part comments filing Forum members included specific requests and urged the Commission to consider these reply comments to further enhance investment and innovation in the 3.5 GHz band. In particular,

Forum members respectfully requested that the Commission should adopt a technical definition of "use" for PAL licenses based around licensee-defined protection areas. In addition, members expressed support the creation of a PAL secondary market. Through these comments, Forum members believe the FCC will best accomplish its goal of making the 3.5 GHz a home for development of robust range of innovative services for American consumers.

Both documents, which include detailed information on the comments can be found in the Forum's Recommendations library http://groups.winnforum.org/Recommendations.

The Wireless Innovation Forum welcomes all interested organizations to participate in the Committee. To learn more about membership options or to apply for membership in the group please visit: http://www.wirelessinnovation.org/join. For more detailed information on projects and deliverables, the group's recently approved charter can be found here: http://groups.winnforum.org/d/do/7958.

#   #   #

About the Wireless Innovation Forum
Established in 1996, The Wireless Innovation Forum (SDR Forum Version 2.0) is a non-profit mutual benefit corporation dedicated to advocating for spectrum innovation, and advancing radio technologies that support essential or critical communications worldwide. Members bring a broad base of experience in Software Defined Radio (SDR), Cognitive Radio(CR) and Dynamic Spectrum Access (DSA) technologies in diverse markets and at all levels of the wireless value chain to address emerging wireless communications requirements. To learn more about The Wireless Innovation Forum, its meetings and membership benefits, visit www.WirelessInnovation.org.

Editorial Contacts
Lee Pucker, 604-828-9876, Lee.Pucker@wirelessinnovation.org or
Stephanie Hamill, 970-290-9543 or Stephanie.Hamill@wirelessinnovation.org