

For Immediate Release



SDR Forum Creates Group to Address White Space Communications Test Guidelines and Requirements

Washington, 24 November, 2008 – The SDR Forum, a non-profit international industry association dedicated to promoting the success of next generation radio technology, has announced today that they have created a new group to address test guidelines and requirements for secondary spectrum access of unused TV spectrum, also known as white space. The group, “Test Guidelines and Requirements for Secondary Spectrum Access of Unused TV Spectrum,” will develop a set of use cases and test requirements for the use of cognitive radio techniques to allow unlicensed secondary spectrum access for unused TV bands.

Often in the news since the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) unanimous approval of the use of vacant portions of the broadcast spectrum by unlicensed devices on November 4, 2008, the topic of white space has been a source of debate, considering it has implications for many types of wireless broadband innovative technology, including software defined and cognitive radio.

“The work of this new group will help the wireless industry in many ways,” says group co-chair Pat Carson of TDK (www.tdk.com). “Our activities will expand the market for cognitive radio technologies by enabling standards to be developed based on a common set of test requirements that enable entry into the market.”

The initial focus of the new SDR Forum Secondary Spectrum Access Testing group will be on mobile technologies (“personal portable devices”), however, the group may also explore new business models in creating the use case scenarios. The anticipated results of the group’s efforts will be a set of uniform testing guidelines for each of the use cases. Potentially, the output will be used for certification testing and to help formulate recommendations to the FCC, ITU and other regulatory bodies promoting the use of Cognitive Radio Technology for secondary spectrum access.

“Testing of cognitive radio is the crucial step in making the transition from research to full commercialization, which is why I decided to support Pat’s idea of creating this group,” says group co-chair Joe Mitola of the Stevens Institute of Technology (<http://www.stevens.edu/sit/>). Dr. Mitola was one of the initial developers of software defined and cognitive radio technologies and was the first to coin the terms in 1991 and 1999, respectively. “The foundation that the SDR Forum is laying here also will enable military and public safety radios to be secondary users, opening up substantial new spectrum resources to DoD and DHS for spectrum surge in national security situations. William Webb of Ofcom, the UK spectrum regulatory body is working with us, so this is very important for commercial, military, and homeland defense spectrum policy here in the New York City area and around the world.”

The next step for the group will be to coordinate with the SDR Forum Cognitive Radio Work Group and other standards bodies to produce standard test procedures.

For more information on the group, or to become involved, visit the SDR Forum web site (www.sdrforum.org) or contact SDR Forum Lee Pucker (lee.pucker@sdrforum.org). The group will also be gathering at the SDR Forum working meeting in San Diego, 26-30 January, 2009 (<http://sdrforum.org/pages/whatsNew/jan09meeting.asp>).

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About the SDR Forum™

Established in 1996, the SDR Forum™ is a non-profit international industry association dedicated to promoting the success of next generation radio technologies. The Forum's 100-strong membership comprises world class technical, business and government organizations from EMEA, Asia and the Americas who are passionate about creating a revolution in wireless communications based on reconfigurable radio. Forum members span commercial, defense and civil government organizations at all levels of the wireless value chain and include service providers, operators, manufacturers, developers, regulatory agencies, and academia. SDR Forum is the only organization in the world dedicated to serving the industry's needs through advocacy, opportunity development, commercialization and education. The SDR Forum's administrative office is headquartered in Phoenix. For more information, please visit www.sdrforum.org

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