Overview

Radio spectrum is a key input into many economic activities, including mobile telephony, wireless broadband, television, defense, and public safety. As usable frequencies are a finite public resource, governments must intervene to manage allocation and pricing. In recent years, encouraged by NERA and other economic advisors, regulators have increasingly turned to market mechanisms to promote efficient spectrum use. Reforms such as auctions, trading, liberalization of use, and incentive pricing have helped to increase downstream competition and accelerate the growth of new wireless services, realizing potentially huge gains for national economies.

Key Areas of Expertise

NERA’s experts provide assistance on all spectrum management issues that require economic input, applying many years of hands-on experience working with companies and governments around the world on the most difficult challenges related to radio spectrum.

NERA’s areas of expertise in spectrum management include:

- Spectrum allocation, including digital dividend policy, re-farming of mobile spectrum, and unlicensed spectrum;
- Spectrum licensing, including the choice of award format, packaging of frequency lots, license terms and conditions, and consultations;
- Spectrum auction design and implementation, including provision on software for running secure online auctions;
- Spectrum pricing, including reserve prices, annual fees, and incentive pricing;
- Spectrum trading and liberalization; and
- Valuation of spectrum, both in relation to individual licenses and the broader contribution of spectrum bands and uses to society.

Our advice is grounded in a thorough understanding of the services that can be deployed using different frequency bands, including:

- Mainstream consumer services, such as wireless broadband, mobile telephony, radio, and television;
- Other commercial uses, such as satellite, data backhaul, private mobile radio, and program making and special events; and
- Public uses, such as the military and public safety.

NERA’s spectrum experts have worked for a diverse clientele around the world, including: national regulators, international bodies, industry associations, and commercial operators from the mobile, defense, satellite, television, and other industries. We also partner with technology, engineering, and legal advisors to offer solutions for spectrum management issues requiring interdisciplinary skills.
About NERA

NERA Economic Consulting (www.nera.com) is a global firm of experts dedicated to applying economic, finance, and quantitative principles to complex business and legal challenges. For half a century, NERA’s economists have been creating strategies, studies, reports, expert testimony, and policy recommendations for government authorities and the world’s leading law firms and corporations. We bring academic rigor, objectivity, and real world industry experience to bear on issues arising from competition, regulation, public policy, strategy, finance, and litigation.

NERA’s clients value our ability to apply and communicate state-of-the-art approaches clearly and convincingly, our commitment to deliver unbiased findings, and our reputation for quality and independence. Our clients rely on the integrity and skills of our unparalleled team of economists and other experts backed by the resources and reliability of one of the world’s largest economic consultancies. With its main office in New York City, NERA serves clients from more than 20 offices across North America, Europe, and Asia Pacific.

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