



Technology Neutral Spectrum Policy for Low-power Wireless Systems with No User Fees

Semiconductors are widely recognized as key technologies contributing to the effective usage of spectrum and play a leading role in the deployment of communication technologies. The Joint Steering Committee (JSTC) of the World Semiconductor Council (WSC) consists of five semiconductor industry associations (representing Europe, Japan, Korea, the U.S., and Taiwan), accounting for more than 95% of worldwide semiconductor production. The JSTC opposes the imposition of Spectrum User Fees on Low-power Wireless Systems and favors the neutrality of policies for spectrum use for Low-power Wireless Systems.

We are aware that “spectrum is one of the world's public resources and, as such, there should be thorough discussions for effective usage of spectrum, compliance with international standards and interoperability from a global perspective.”

Application technologies for spectrum have dramatically progressed and its application fields have been extended from public to private sectors in the 20th century. On reaching the 21st century, ‘broadband-ization’ has been swiftly progressing, and the contents of wireless communication have been expanded from voice communication to data and even video communication.

The JSTC submits that promoting effective usage of spectrum for spectrum-use businesses such as wireless LAN, RFID, ETC (Electronic Toll Collection) and digital consumer appliances accelerates the advent of a ubiquitous network society. Furthermore, the UWB (Ultra Wide Band) technology and its applications will exploit a fundamentally new arena of the market in the near future.

The effective use of spectrum and the potential advancement in spectrum-use businesses will be strongly affected by the spectrum policies of governments/authorities. Policies related to spectrum-use should be open both domestically and internationally and should encourage the creation of new industries and reform of existing industries. Additionally, they should drive to expand sound and competitive markets, and should not hinder the development of spectrum-use and its related industries. We believe continuing to foster free growth of spectrum-use could bring huge benefits macro-economically in contrast to the imposition of Spectrum User Fees -- which might yield limited short term benefits while slowing growth long term.

The JSTC of the WSC would like to call for policies for spectrum-use especially for Low-power Wireless Systems by governments/authorities that include the following:

1. Acceptance of international customs continuously with sufficient discussions of compliance with international standards and global interoperability;
2. Assurance that the public can freely use unlicensed stations as usual;
3. No collection of Spectrum User Fees from Low-power Wireless Systems such as digital consumer appliances; and
4. Policies on the use of unlicensed lower-power frequencies that are nondiscriminatory and based on sound and widely accepted scientific and technological principles.