

# Spectrum Buyouts

## A Proposal for the Transition to Open Spectrum

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### Abstract

To remedy the stalemate of spectrum policy, regulatory reforms are being proposed to assign exclusive rights to spectrum. Such reforms are harmful because wireless LANs enable far more efficient communications by sharing a wide band. So it would be better to open the spectrum as *commons*, instead of dividing it into narrow bands. I propose a system of *spectrum buyouts*, by which the government would take back spectrum from incumbents and reopen it for use without a licensing requirement. The prices of these reverse auctions would be much cheaper than that of ordinary spectrum auctions.