

6G Wireless Standards Must Embrace a Shared Spectrum Approach



As we move toward next-generation wireless standards, including 6G, spectrum policy must reflect reality: the future of spectrum is shared.

As the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) gathers input on how the Executive Branch should approach sixth-generation (6G) wireless communications technology, Spectrum for the Future (SFTF) has offered six key recommendations:

1 NTIA Should Prioritize Beneficial Uses of Wireless Technology Through Spectrum Sharing, Rather Than Favoring One Specific Standard.

6G policy should recognize the growing reliance on shared spectrum, as mass-market Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) increasingly depend on technologies like Wi-Fi.

2 6G's Commercial Success Hinges on Embracing Dynamic Spectrum Sharing.

Shared spectrum is essential for 6G deployment and innovative applications like private networks and intelligent manufacturing, offering greater efficiency, availability, and flexibility compared to exclusively licensed spectrum.

3 Our 6G Strategy Shouldn't Bet Everything on the "Big Three" Carriers.

5G has not lived up to its initial speed and coverage promises to consumers because the major national carriers haven't fully invested in building out their wireless infrastructure – especially in rural areas. Spectrum sharing puts spectrum in the hands of more than just the "Big Three."

4 NTIA Should Prioritize Spectrum Sharing Research – Without Overlooking the Advanced Technologies Already Available.

NTIA should adapt proven coexistence strategies focused on local licensing with smaller geographic areas and lower power levels to reduce interference, enhance spectrum control, and promote innovation.

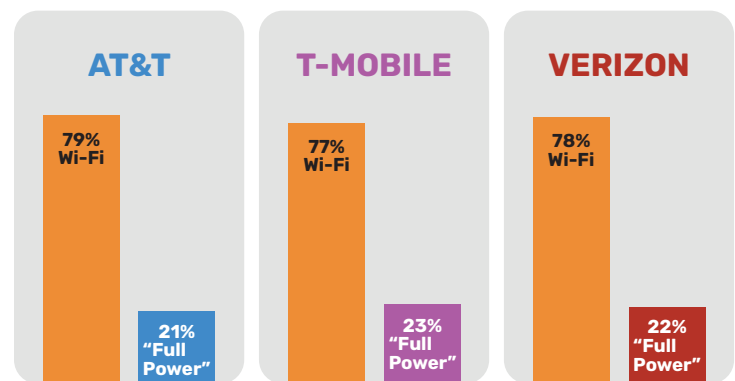
5 NTIA Must Work Closely with U.S. Allies, Especially Other NATO Countries, on 6G Wireless Standards.

To help the U.S. and our allies lead in the development of 6G – instead of ceding leadership to competitors like China – NTIA should advocate for standards that elevate U.S.-led sharing innovations over China's centralized spectrum agenda.

6 NTIA Must Encourage Diverse Participation in 6G Development.

NTIA should encourage a broad range of stakeholders – beyond traditional wireless carriers – to participate in 6G development and deliver on the promise of any new wireless standards.

Percentage of Mobile Traffic Handled by Wi-Fi versus Full Power



Sources: #20yearsofwifi with Broadcom; OpenSignal per MoffettNathanson "It's Time to Take Cable's Wireless Business Seriously," by Light Reading, 01/04/2023. Please Note: Figures based on data as of 2022. Since that time, we understand the carriage of mobile data over Wi-Fi has only increased.

Read SFTF's full letter to the NTIA [here](#)