

New Study: Spectrum Sharing Key to Maximizing Value

A new report from the Brattle Group showcases the economic value of shared licensing and outlines a clear, evidence-based framework for comparing the costs and benefits of exclusive versus shared licensing in the 3.1-3.45 GHz band.

Highlights

- Shared licensing will add economic value and revenue for the U.S. Treasury while also saving costs by not forcing national defense systems to vacate spectrum.
- When both costs and benefits are weighed, spectrum sharing is the option that generates greater return for the American people while allowing government users to maintain their important missions.
- Sharing encourages non-traditional operators, fostering novel uses, competition, and greater innovation.
- Sharing promotes 5G investment in purpose-built solutions for rural and remote areas that may not be served by traditional carriers.
- Shared spectrum in the CBRS band is already the preferred option for private wireless networks that are supercharging American manufacturing.

Shared Spectrum Means More Value in 3.1-3.45 GHz Band

- Vacating the mid-band for commercial 5G would cost the Department of Defense \$120 billion, according to the Pentagon.
- When clearing costs are accounted for, an exclusive licensing regime in the in 3.1-3.45 band would generate a net loss in value and pose a risk to national security.
- Spectrum sharing, in contrast, can create almost \$19 billion in net revenue for the Treasury with no clearing costs and no threat to national security.

| | Exclusive Licensing | CBRS-Style Sharing |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total Costs | \$120+ Billion | \$4.67 Billion |
| Total Revenue from New Users | \$78.62 Billion | \$23.28 Billion |
| Net Value to New Users | -\$41.38 Billion | +\$18.61 Billion |



"[S]hared spectrum is an increasingly important tool for getting the most benefit from limited spectrum resources and maximizing both public and private returns."

— The Brattle Group, Principles of Spectrum Sharing: Understanding the Value of Shared Spectrum, September 2023.



"CBRS-style sharing in the 3.1 – 3.45 GHz band, with 350 megahertz of spectrum available for shared use, even with conservative estimates of clearing costs, maximizes the social net value of spectrum in the 3.1-3.45 GHz Band compared to an exclusive regime."

— The Brattle Group, Principles of Spectrum Sharing: Understanding the Value of Shared Spectrum, September 2023

[Read the Full Study](#)