

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2366

To promote innovation, investment, and economic growth by accelerating spectrum efficiency through a challenge prize competition.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 8, 2015

Mr. UDALL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To promote innovation, investment, and economic growth by accelerating spectrum efficiency through a challenge prize competition.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Spectrum Challenge
5 Prize Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The future competitiveness and global tech-
9 nology leadership of the United States depend, in

1 part, upon the availability and efficient use of spec-
2 trum.

3 (2) Dramatic improvement in spectrum effi-
4 ciency would spur innovation, investment, and eco-
5 nomic growth.

6 (3) Radio frequency spectrum is vital for emer-
7 gency communications, national security, law en-
8 forcement, aviation, maritime safety, space commu-
9 nications, and numerous other Federal functions.

10 (4) Prize competitions can spur innovation in
11 the private and public sectors.

12 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act—

14 (1) the term “Commission” means the Federal
15 Communications Commission;

16 (2) the term “prize competition” means a prize
17 competition conducted by the Secretary under sec-
18 tion 4(a); and

19 (3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
20 of Commerce.

21 **SEC. 4. SPECTRUM CHALLENGE PRIZE.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
23 Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and
24 Information and in consultation with the Under Secretary
25 of Commerce for Standards and Technology, shall—

1 (1) conduct prize competitions to dramatically
2 accelerate the development and commercialization of
3 technology that improves spectrum efficiency and is
4 capable of cost-effective deployment; and

5 (2) define a measurable set of performance
6 goals for participants in the prize competitions to
7 demonstrate their solutions on a level playing field
8 while making a significant advancement over the
9 current state of the art.

10 (b) **AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.**—In carrying out
11 subsection (a), the Secretary may—

12 (1) enter into a grant, contract, cooperative
13 agreement, or other agreement with a private sector
14 for-profit or nonprofit entity to administer the prize
15 competitions;

16 (2) invite the Defense Advanced Research
17 Projects Agency, the Commission, the National Aer-
18 onautics and Space Administration, the National
19 Science Foundation, or any other Federal agency to
20 provide advice and assistance in the design or ad-
21 ministration of the prize competitions; and

22 (3) award not more than \$5,000,000, in the ag-
23 gregate, to the winner or winners of the prize com-
24 petitions.

1 **SEC. 5. CRITERIA.**

2 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
3 of this Act, the Commission shall publish a technical paper
4 on spectrum efficiency providing criteria that may be used
5 for the design of the prize competitions.

6 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
8 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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