

HOW TO MONITOR THE FCC AUCTIONS ON-LINE

The auction announcements and round results for Auction 26 will be accessible through the FCC Wide Area Network, the Internet and the FCC Auction Bulletin Board System (BBS). You can check on round results and also read any material released by the Commission during the course of the auction. This fact sheet provides the information that you need to track the auction from your computer.

Option 1: Tracking the Auction via the FCC Wide Area Network

The FCC has implemented a Remote Access System that allows users to dial in directly to the FCC to view round results, auction announcements, and messages, and to make suggestions to the FCC regarding the FCC auction process.

The following minimum hardware and software is required to use the FCC Remote Access System:

Minimum Hardware Requirements

- CPU: Intel Pentium
- RAM: 16 MB (more recommended if you have multiple applications open)
- Modem: v.32bis 14.4kbps Hayes compatible modem or faster (recommend 56.6kps)
- Monitor: VGA or above
- Mouse or other pointing device

Minimum Software Requirements

- Operating System: Microsoft Windows 95/98
- Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) Dialer: Use the Dial-Up Networking feature included with Windows 95/98
- Web Browser: Netscape® Communicator™ 4.61 is recommended. However, you can also use Netscape Communicator 4.5 or 4.51 (Internet web browser software).

Note: To download Netscape Communicator 4.61 free of charge, access the Netscape download site at <http://home.netscape.com/download/>

Connecting to the FCC Network

To use the FCC Remote Access System, you must first connect to the FCC Network using Dial-Up Networking.

Dial-Up Networking connects to a 900 number telephone service at a charge of \$2.30 per minute. The first minute of connection time to the 900 number service is at no charge, (900) 555-5554.

Dial-Up Networking establishes a point-to-point connection from your PC to the FCC Network. *This point-to-point connection is not routed through the Internet.*

For instructions regarding how to connect to the FCC Network using Dial-Up Networking, see the *Accessing the FCC Network Using Windows 95/98* section.

Note: Throughout these instructions, “enter” means to type the appropriate information and then press the ENTER key.

Using the FCC Remote Access System

After you have connected to the FCC Network, start your Netscape Web browser. In your browser’s *Location* field, enter the following location:

http://wtbwww26.fcc.gov and then click **Round Results Viewer, Suggestion Box, or Announcements**

Note: If you cannot access the preceding site, and you suspect there is a problem with your Domain Name Server (DNS), refer to *Accessing FCC Sites In Case of DNS Problems* at the end of this document.

When you have finished, exit your Web browser, then disconnect from the FCC Network.

For technical assistance with installing or using FCC software, contact the FCC Technical Support Hotline at (202) 414-1250 (V) or (202) 414-1255 (TTY). The FCC Technical Support Hotline is generally available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET. *All calls to the FCC Technical Support Hotline are recorded.*

Option 2: Tracking the Auction via the Internet

You may use your Web browser to download announcements and round results from ***wtbwww13.fcc.gov*** – or from either of two secondary locations, ***wtbwww01.fcc.gov*** or ***www.fcc.gov/wtb/auctions/*** -- as described in the following section.

Downloading from *wtbwww13.fcc.gov* or *wtbwww01.fcc.gov*:

1. Connect to your Internet service provider and start your Web browser.
2. In the *Location* field of the Web browser screen, enter one of the following locations: ***http://wtbwww13.fcc.gov*** or ***wtbwww01.fcc.gov***

Note: If you cannot access either of the preceding sites, and you suspect there is a problem with your Domain Name Server (DNS), refer to *Accessing FCC Sites In Case of DNS Problems* at the end of this document.

3. Click on **Auction 26**.
 - For auction announcements, click on **Announcements**.
 - To download a bid import template file, click on **Announcements**, then select *template.txt*.
 - For auction round results, click on **Results** and then click on the subdirectory for the type of files you wish to use:

mdb - Microsoft Access database files,
txt - text files, and
dbf - dBASE database files.

4. Click on the file you wish to download.

Downloading from *www.fcc.gov/wtb/auctions/*:

1. Connect to your Internet service provider and start your Web browser.
2. In the *Location* field of the Web browser screen, enter the following location: ***http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/auctions/***
3. Do the following:
 - a. In the *Auctions* section on the right, click **Paging Auction #26** under *In Progress*.
 - b. Then click on **Announcements, Programs, or Results**.
 - For auction announcements, click on **Announcements**.
 - To download a bid import template file, click on **Announcements**, then select *template.txt*.

- For auction round results, click on **Results** and then click on the subdirectory for the type of files you wish to use:

mdb - Microsoft Access database files,
txt - text files, and
dbf - dBASE database files.

4. Then click on the file you wish to download.

Archive Directories

The FCC will establish archive directories for round results files on the Internet. After every 50 rounds, files will be moved from the *Results* MDB, TXT, or DBF directories to a respective archive directory. The newest round results files will continue to be uploaded to the *Results* directory.

For example, in round 102, DBF round results files would be located as follows:

On the primary location, *wtbwww13.fcc.gov*:

Rounds 1-50	http://wtbwww13.fcc.gov/Paging/Auction_26/Results/dbf/D001_050
Rounds 51-100	http://wtbwww13.fcc.gov/Paging/Auction_26/Results/dbf/D051_100
Rounds 101-102	http://wtbwww13.fcc.gov/Paging/Auction_26/Results/dbf/
Rounds 1-50	http://wtbwww13.fcc.gov/Paging/Auction_26/Results/mdb/M001_050
Rounds 51-100	http://wtbwww13.fcc.gov/Paging/Auction_26/Results/mdb/M051_100
Rounds 101-102	http://wtbwww13.fcc.gov/Paging/Auction_26/Results/mdb/
Rounds 1-50	http://wtbwww13.fcc.gov/Paging/Auction_26/Results/txt/T001_050
Rounds 51-100	http://wtbwww13.fcc.gov/Paging/Auction_26/Results/txt/T051_100
Rounds 101-102	http://wtbwww13.fcc.gov/Paging/Auction_26/Results/txt/

Note: If you cannot access these files at the preceding primary location, you can use your regular Internet Service Provider to access the same files at either of the following secondary locations: *wtbwww01.fcc.gov* or *www.fcc.gov/wtb/auctions/*.

Option 3: Tracking the Auction via the Bulletin Board System (BBS)

The FCC Auction Bulletin Board System (BBS) provides dial-in access for Auction Results. To access the FCC Auction BBS, use a communications package that can handle Zmodem protocol (such as PcAnyWhere, Procomm, or Microsoft Hyperterminal in Windows 95/98) to dial in to (202) 682-5851 or (717) 338-0731. Use the settings of 8 data bits, no parity and 1 stop bit (8,N,1).

Once your computer is connected to the Auction BBS, do the following:

1. To create an account:

- a. Enter your first name.
- b. Enter your last name.
- c. When asked whether you want to create an account, enter *y*. (You may also enter *Y*, the program accepts either case.)
- d. When prompted, enter a password.

The password can be from four to ten characters long (where the characters can be either letters or numbers).

- e. To confirm the password, enter it again.
- f. When prompted for contact information, enter your voice phone number. Include the area code; for example, you might enter **202-555-1234**.
- g. Enter your company name.

2. On the Welcome screen, enter *c* for *Continue*.

3. When asked whether you want to view the bulletin menu, enter *y* for *Yes*. Then, to continue, press ENTER to obtain the FCC Auction BBS Main Menu.

4. Enter *a* (for Auction Menu) to obtain the *Auction Library Menu*. The top options on this menu provides a range of numbers to represent the available auctions.

5. To select *Auction 26*, enter *c* to select the third range.

6. On the Auctions Library Menu, enter the number of the auction you want.

The Auction Menu appears.

7. Enter *a* to select *Announcements* or enter *r* to select *Results*.

The list of available files for Auction 26 appears. These files are sorted by date, with the most recent files at the beginning of the list.

8. To scroll downward to the next screen of file names, either press ENTER or enter *c* for *Continue*. To scroll upward to the preceding screen of file names, enter *p* for *Previous*.

Note that on each screen, file names are numbered separately, starting with 1.

9. To select one or more files for downloading or viewing, mark the files you want. The program marks a file by preceding its name with an asterisk (*).

You can do the following:

- o To mark an individual file, enter its line number.
 - o To mark a range of files, enter *m* (for *Mark*) and then enter the range of files in response to the prompt. For example, to mark files 6 through 12, enter **6-12** at the prompt.
 - o To unmark a file, enter its number again. You can also use *Mark* to unmark a range of files.
10. When you have finished marking files, you may download or view the marked files (you may only view text files).

To download the marked files, take the following steps:

- a. Enter *d* for *Download*.

The program displays a list that summarizes the download operation. The *Time* column lists the download time for each file; the *Total Time* column lists a running total of the download times.

- b. Enter *d* to proceed.
- c. Select the file transfer protocol that has been specified in your terminal emulation software (e.g., Zmodem).
- d. When the download operation has finished, the list of files reappears.

To view the marked files, do the following:

- a. Enter *v* for *View*.
- b. Enter the file number that you would like to view.

11. Enter *x* to leave the BBS.

Note: All round results files will be accessed through the *Results* menu on the BBS. No archive menus will be created.

Announcement Files

The announcement files will use the naming convention *aa_xxx.nn*, where *aa* is the auction number, *xxx* is the round number and *nn* is the announcement number. For example, 26_002.07 would represent an announcement for Auction 26 that was posted during round two and was the seventh announcement for the auction.

Round Results Files

For each round, dBase-compatible database files will be uploaded with the following naming conventions:

- 26_xxxS.DBF contains all bids submitted in a particular round
- 26_xxxW.DBF contains all bids withdrawn in a particular round
- 26_xxxE.DBF contains the maximum eligibility and remaining number of waivers for each bidder
- 26_xxxH.DBF contains the high bids in a particular round and the minimum accepted bids for the next round

where *xxx* represents the round number.

For those who cannot use the dBase-compatible database files, we will also upload the ASCII text (.TXT) version of these files with the same filenames as above (e.g., 26_xxxS.TXT, 26_xxxE.TXT).

In addition, if you wish to use Microsoft Access or are using the FCC provided Auction Tracking Tool, we upload the MDB access version of the round results files with the filenames as above as zipped files (e.g., 26_xxxS.ZIP, 26_xxxE.ZIP).

Round Results File Formats

The Round Results File Formats will be published in a future Public Notice.

Accessing FCC Sites In Case of DNS Problems

When you enter a URL into your browser, the system must convert this alphanumeric text (e.g., *www.fcc.gov/wtb/auctions/*) into its associated numeric IP address (*192.104.54.3*, in this case). To make this conversion, the system checks URL-to-IP-address “lookup” tables in two different places.

First, it looks at the table contained in a file called **hosts** in the c:\windows directory on your computer’s hard drive. If the URL is not in that table, the system looks in the

database on your Domain Name Server (DNS). However, if your DNS is unavailable for some reason, the system will not be able to find the IP address you requested.

The following procedure is intended to help ensure that you can access auction results files on the FCC's Web and FTP sites if your designated DNS has problems. Note the following:

- The IP addresses shown in the following procedure are correct as of the date this document was created. They may have changed subsequently. In case of problems, please check with Tech Support at (202) 414-1250.
- Make entries in the **hosts** file *only* to work around DNS problems. We do not recommend leaving these entries in permanently; please remove them when your DNS problem has been resolved.

To add FCC-related URL entries to your computer's hosts file, do the following:

1. Using Windows Explorer, ensure that the hosts file exists in your c:\windows directory. If c:\windows has no **hosts** file, use the Windows *Rename* function to change the name of the **hosts.sam** file to **hosts** (with no extension).

To do this, use your *right-hand* mouse button to click the **hosts.sam** file, then click the Rename option in the menu that appears.

2. Using a text editor of your choice, such as Wordpad or Notepad, open the hosts file in your c:\windows directory.

This file will already contain the following entry:

```
127.0.0.1      localhost
```

3. Using the same format (with at least one space between each number and its corresponding URL), add the following entries to the bottom of the file:

```
192.104.54.3  ftp.fcc.gov
192.104.54.3  www.fcc.gov
208.245.40.194 wtbftp02.fcc.gov
208.245.40.194 wtbwww13.fcc.gov
207.123.193.68 wtbftp01.fcc.gov
207.123.193.68 wtbwww01.fcc.gov
```

4. Save the file and exit your text editor.

Be sure that the file name has not changed to *hosts.txt* or *hosts.doc* or similar. It must remain just **hosts** (with no extension).

Using the Backup 900 Number

If you had problems connecting through the FCC's 900 number, to review FCC Form 175 applications or to use the FCC Remote Access System, you must reconfigure Dial-Up Networking to use the backup 900 number. Do the following:

1. Click the *FCC Auctions 900#* icon, to highlight it.
2. Using your mouse's *right* mouse button, click this icon.
3. Click the *Properties* option on the menu.
4. In the *Telephone Number* field of the window that appears, type **555-5335**.
5. Click the **OK** button.

Help

For technical assistance with downloading files or installing and using FCC software, contact the FCC Technical Support Hotline at (202) 414-1250 (V) or (202) 414-1255 (TTY). The FCC Technical Support Hotline is generally available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET. *All calls to the FCC Technical Support Hotline are recorded.*