



Global Satellite Coalition Position: 28 GHz Band (27.5-29.5 GHz)

Overview: Today, Ka-band satellites provide broadband connectivity to those that otherwise would not have it, and are a competitive alternative for those with limited broadband choices. Satellite-delivered broadband is a success story made possible by decades-old decisions to safeguard satellite's unique role in the broadband revolution by providing satellite access to the "Ka-band" portion of the radio spectrum. Over one hundred commercial Ka band satellites have been placed in orbit and many more are under development and will soon be launched. Satellite broadband networks may be the only way of affordably connecting the economic and geographically challenged unserved and underserved. The 28 GHz (27.5-29.5 GHz) portion of the Ka band is part of the "core" satellite spectrum used today to deliver broadband globally.

Even though these satellite networks provide critical services using the 28 GHz band, the terrestrial wireless industry seeks to repurpose that spectrum for future 5G networks, despite the availability of other radio spectrum where 5G can deploy. This industry is pressuring governments around the world to bypass international processes and policy, ignore the investments and innovation of the satellite industry and relocate satellite use from all or part of the Ka band, in favor of 5G.

This attempted spectrum repurposing ignores a decision at the 2015 ITU World Radiocommunication Conference in which world governments: (i) declined to consider introducing terrestrial 5G in the 28 GHz band; (ii) reaffirmed the critical need for satellite communications in this spectrum; and (iii) further proposed expanding use of the 28 GHz band for satellite broadband service to airplanes, buses, trucks, trains, cars and ships (i.e., Earth Stations in Motion or ESIMs) at the 2019 World Radiocommunication Conference.

The satellite industry has invested billions of dollars in 28 GHz band satellites and other critical infrastructure, including launch and manufacturing facilities, Internet gateways and other ground infrastructure, and the devices that connect consumer, business and government users to the Internet. Because of that investment, hundreds of millions of satellite broadband connections now occur over these satellites. These satellite networks serve national security, military, government, space exploration, aviation, business and residential broadband users globally. Satellite broadband provides digital connectivity across the world. Connected citizens build nations and societies in place. And these networks also support countless high-paying jobs in the space industry and increase national GDPs.

The GSC recommends that **no** IMT/5G identification in the 28 GHz band be considered at WRC-19 or beyond. In addition, countries should not introduce IMT/5G into the 28 GHz band on a national basis, but rather should authorize full use of the 28 GHz band for current and future satellite needs as a key enabler of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relating to broadband. There is a vast amount of spectrum already available or expected to be made available for terrestrial IMT/5G in low, mid, and high bands outside the 28 GHz band. The 28 GHz band must continue to be made available for satellite broadband which provides and will continue to provide critical broadband connectivity across the globe.