

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER JAMES H. QUELLO**

**Re: Auction of Narrowband Personal Communications Services**

*also*  
I wish to welcome the bidders to this auction of spectrum for Narrowband Personal Communications Services. Personal Communications Services (PCS) is a subject that has received a good deal of my time and attention. I have often reiterated my belief that the Commission must move expeditiously to complete the administrative processes that lead to the establishment of innovative telecommunications services. The public interest is served best by having early access to an array of lower-cost, ubiquitous, location-independent communications.

*overall*  
Personal Communications Services will change the way we  
*in the future* communicate. *specifically* Narrowband PCS will provide for advanced  
paging and messaging services for an increasing mobile and  
information-dependent society.

➤ Establishing the regulatory framework, while implementing a  
new licensing procedure mandated by Congress, for a major  
new communications industry such as PCS, was a complex and  
time-consuming task. The Commission staff, under the  
leadership of Chairman Hundt, has *energetically* valiantly met the challenge.  
We Commissioners share the vision of a robust competitive  
new personal mobile communications industry that will benefit  
the American people in the very near future. Today is the first  
step in actually implementing that vision.

The auctions today are particularly gratifying for us at the FCC who initiated the PCS proceedings last fall on a hectic expedited schedule. / Today, with narrowband PCS auctions, marks the culmination of months of rulemakings, revisions and improvements by a dedicated, hard working staff -- first under my interim chairmanship and finally under Chairman Reed Hundt, who did an excellent job of fine tuning and expediting the final report.

I want to congratulate Chairman Hundt for his leadership in bringing our efforts to closure and thank my fellow Commissioners for their invaluable contributions. / I wish to commend the extraordinary efforts of the PCS Auction Task Force and virtually all of the Commission staff in giving birth to a <sup>new</sup> family of new mobile communications services known collectively as PCS.

At the time of the initial report, I said PCS was probably the most momentous decision in recent history and that it is eventually destined to change, improve and expand the way Americans and <sup>the</sup> world communicate with each other in years to come.

Today, we initiate the FCC auction proceedings. The narrowband auctions will serve as a model for future broadband auctions scheduled for late fall.

A number of Commission staff worked long and hard to bring us this day. In particular, <sup>EA</sup> Even <sup>KER-ELL</sup> Kwerel, Gerry Vaughan, Kent Nakamura, Robert Pepper, Ralph Haller, Jonathan Cohen, Don Gips, Greg Rosston, Karen <sup>Regey</sup> Wrege, Patti Grace Smith, Audrey Spivak, Jackie Chorney,

Sonna Stampone and Mark Oakley deserve special mention.

*Also, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the dedicated work of Dr Brian Forbes in initiating this exciting service.*  
They not only are responsible for this auction itself, but they

are responsible for the spirit and thought behind this auction.

*giving a special salute to KER-ELL*  
I would like to end by saluting Evan Kwerel. Evan is a 12-year Commission employee who has been advocating auctions for 10 years. Today, as your dream comes true so does his. Without Evan's involvement, we would not be here today. I know that all of the bidders, as well as potential customers, will join me in thanking Evan and all the Commission staff who have worked <sup>so</sup> diligently to make this happen.

So, it is my privilege as Senior Commissioner, to represent Chairman Hundt in initiating this historic auction process. On that note, and for the benefit of all Americans, let the bidding begin!

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Personal Communications Services will change the way we communicate. Narrowband PCS will provide for advanced paging and messaging services for an increasingly mobile and information-dependent society.

Establishing the regulatory framework, while implementing a new licensing procedure mandated by Congress, for a major new communications industry such as PCS, was a complex and time-consuming task. The Commission staff has valiantly met the challenge. We Commissioners share the vision of a robust competitive new personal mobile communications industry that will benefit the American people in the very near future. Today is the first step in actually implementing that vision.

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