



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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## **STATEMENT OF FCC CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL REGARDING SATELLITE LICENSING REFORMS**

A pillar of my strategic vision for the Agency is a modernized Commission that is more responsive, efficient, and effective in light of the technological and economic opportunities of the new millennium. That commitment is embodied in today's streamlining of our space and earth station license application processes. Schedule S, as revised today, will expedite our review of satellite applications and will allow us to develop a database that will enhance public access to information on satellite policy and licensing. Likewise, we expect that our adoption of Form 312EZ, along with revisions to existing forms, will expedite our review of routine earth station applications. We look forward to drawing important lessons from the mandatory electronic filing requirements for earth stations that we adopt today, which we hope to apply more broadly in a transition to complete electronic filing for satellites. More efficient processes mean more rapid licensing and ultimately fewer regulatory restraints in the digital migration towards next generation satellite platforms. This reform would not have been possible but for the leadership and dedication of the International Bureau staff that has worked for so long to bring IBFS [International Bureau Filing System] to us today.

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