



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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“MAKING THE RURAL CONNECTION”
FCC RURAL SATELLITE FORUM
TO BE HELD JANUARY 27, 2004

Washington, D.C. - The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will hold a Satellite Rural Forum on January 27, 2004, focusing on satellites serving rural America.

The all-day event, which is open to the public, will be held at the FCC headquarters building, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. starting at 10:00am. FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell will open the forum.

The forum will feature satellite-based communications systems serving rural areas of the United States. It will include four panels of experts and providers as well as demonstrations and exhibits. The event will highlight specific consumer applications:

- telemedicine and distance learning,
- public safety and homeland security,
- agriculture and farming, and
- broadband access, information and mass media entertainment.

The forum is designed to educate the public and users about the availability of services, encourage development of new and innovative services and programs as well as explore economic approaches to serving the communications needs of rural America. It will include company representatives, government officials and users.

The FCC International Bureau, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau and Office of Strategic Planning are coordinating this event. Further information is available on the FCC website at: <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/rural/> or you may contact International Bureau representatives Douglas Webbink at 202-418-1494, douglas.webbink@fcc.gov, or Mark Young at 202-418-0762, mark.young@fcc.gov.

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