# The U.S. DTV Transition: A Digital Dividend

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ComReg October 2008



## Why Spectrum Policy Matters

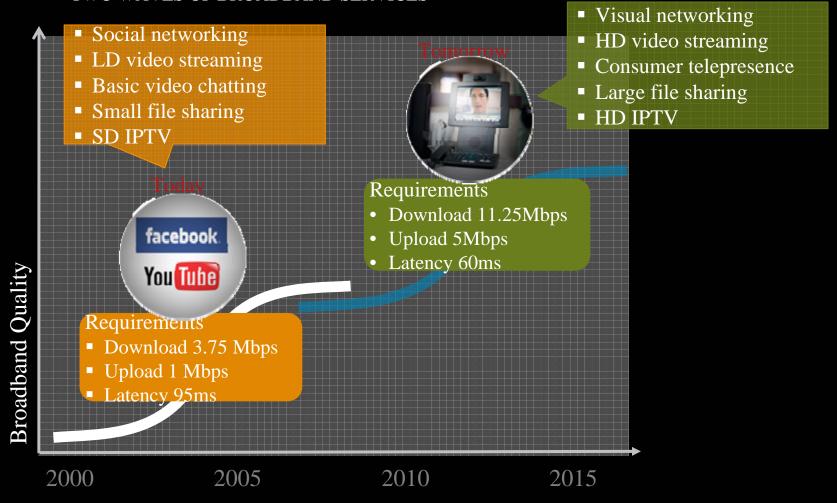
- Spectrum is an enabler
- Good spectrum policy is prerequisite for new wireless broadband deployment
- Extend/complement fixed networks
- Serve unserved and underserved areas
   Mobile example leapfrogging fixed networks
- New capabilities
   Combines mobility and broadband
- Competition

# Spectrum for Broadband Wireless Access Not All Spectrum is Created Equal

- Spectrum above 5 GHz mostly line-of-sight
- Spectrum below 3 GHz NOT usually needed to be line-of-sight... but it really helps
- Between 3 GHz and 5 GHz mixed story
- Lower frequencies can bounce off of structures and find their way to the subscriber
- Higher frequencies are absorbed
- Most desirable spectrum is below 1Ghz
   Drive for 700/800 MHz—DTV Transition
   Digital Dividend
- WRC 2007 and EU decisions

# **Broadband Matters Changing Quality Requirements**





Source: California Broadband Task Force, Jan 2008; Cisco IBSG; Expert interviews; Oxford Team analysis, Aug 2008

### **Broadband Quality Score (BQS)**

**BQS CALCULATION** 

- BQS is calculated based on normalized values of:
   Download and Upload throughput, and Latency
- About 8million records sourced from actual tests from Speedtest.net (Ookla) during May 2008
- Weights assigned to each factor for today's and tomorrow's (3 to 5 years) applications.

BQS (today) = 55% Download + 23% Upload + 22%Latency

BOS threshold: 32

- Download 3.75 Mbps
- Upload 1 Mbps
- Latency 95ms

**BQS (tmrw)** = 45% Download + 32% Upload + 23%Latency

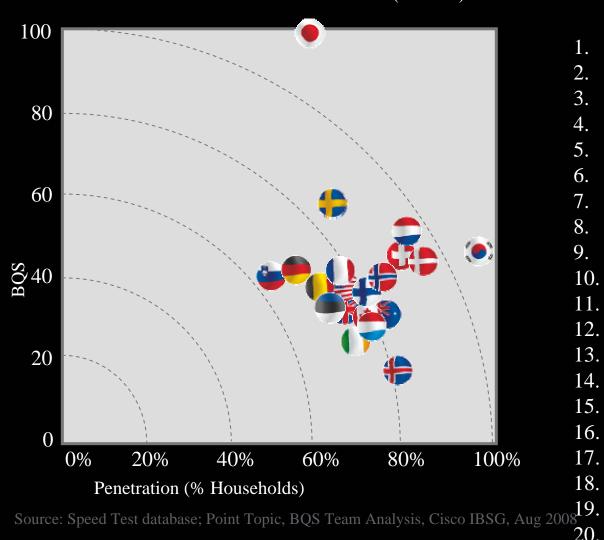
BQS threshold: 75

- Download 11.25Mbps
- Upload 5Mbps
- Latency 60ms

Source: University of Oviedo; Delphi interviews; Oxford University Team Analysis, Aug 2008

### On One Measure, Ireland is Doing OK

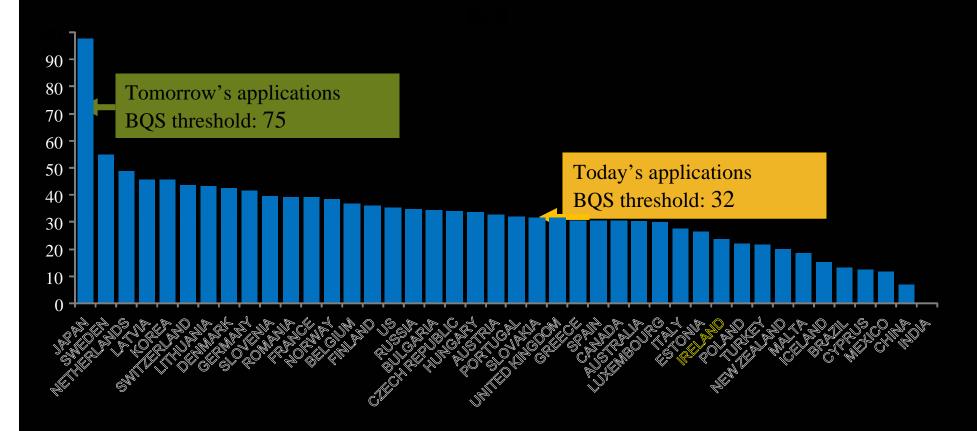
#### **BROADBAND LEADERSHIP MATRIX (TOP-20)**



- Japan
- South Korea
- Netherlands
- Denmark
- Switzerland
- Sweden
- Norway
- Australia
- Iceland
- Luxembourg
- Canada
- 12. Finland
- France
- US 14.
- United Kingdom
- Ireland
- Belgium
- Estonia 18.
- Germany
- Slovenia 20.

# OK Is Not Good Enough Country Broadband Quality Scores

BROADBAND QUALITY SCORE BY COUNTRY



Source: Speed Test database, Expert Interviews, BQS Team Analysis, Aug 2008



# In The Beginning: HDTV

- Twenty years in the making
- Began as debate over HDTV
  - ➤ A way for terrestrial broadcasters to provide HDTV
  - ► And keep unused spectrum
  - Proposed analog standard
- FCC opened inquiry in 1987
- Competing standards proposals
- Creation of ATSC
- Digital revolution intervened

### The Digital Advantage

- Goals for the DTV transition
  - Give terrestrial broadcasting a future in digital multi-channel world
  - Provide new services for consumers
  - Reclaim spectrum and provide new services
    - Digital more efficient—permitted repacking
    - Public Safety and wireless broadband

#### **U.S.** Digital TV Transition

- Command and Control AND market-based policies
- Command and Control
  - ➤ Government requirement for analog-digital transition for terrestrial TV
  - Statutory mandate by Congress
  - Statutory analog switch off, February 2009
  - Digital turner mandate
  - Established ATSC standard for DTV...not cable or satellite
  - Incumbents got first right of refusal for digital license
  - Return analog license at end of transition
  - Repack band at end of transition
  - >Set aside 24 MHz for public safety (emergency) service

#### **DTV Standard**

- ATSC Industry led
  - >FCC added computer representatives
- DTV standard
  - Designed for terrestrial
  - ►MPEG 2
  - ➤19.39 Mbps
  - ➤ Flexible—technology and rules
  - >HDTV
- Enables reclaimed spectrum
  - >108 MHz @ 700 MHz returned
  - ≥24 MHz for public safety
  - >84 MHz auctioned

#### **Switch Off**

- Mandated by Congress
- Switch off 17 February 2009
- Auction returned spectrum
- Subsidy for D-A converters
  - > Funded from auction revenues
  - ➤ Vouchers
- Public education program

### **DTV Transition Opportunities**

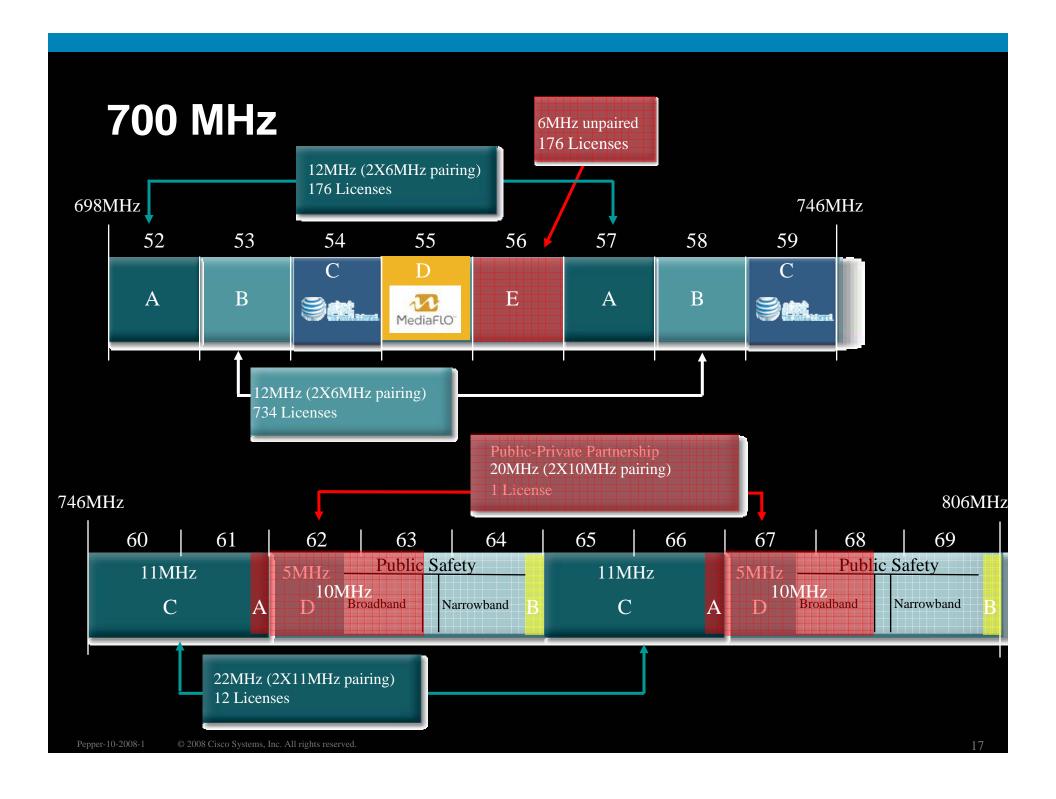
More efficient use of spectrum

More content "channels"
Less overall spectrum needed
Opportunities from "repacking"

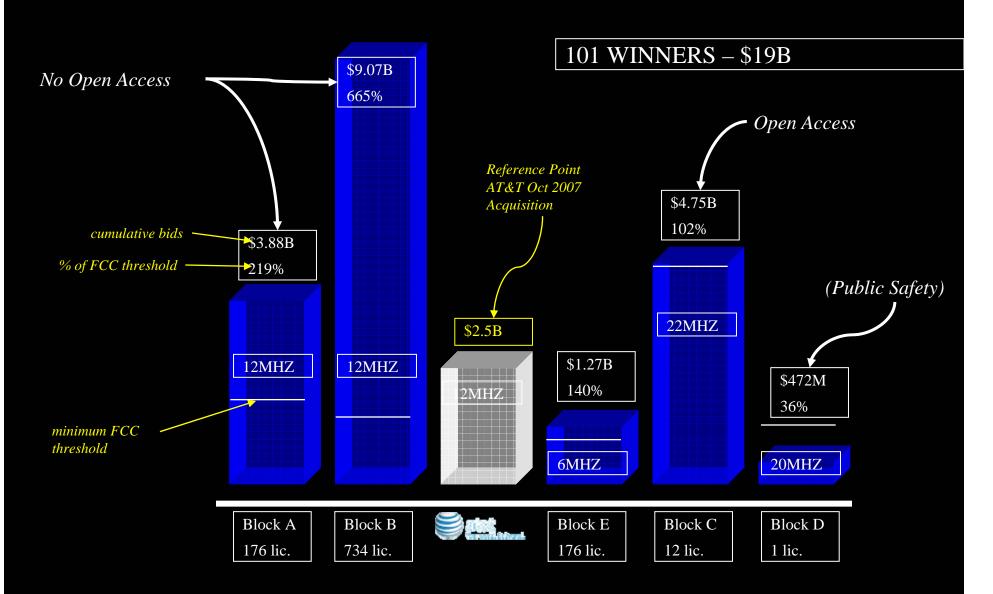
- Higher qualityTransmissionHDTV
- Greater flexibility
   Video, date, and more
- "Digital Dividend"
   New services with returned spectrum
- 700 MHz auction—Broadband

#### 700 MHz Auction

- Completed
- Wireless broadband
- Mobile TV
- New services
- Re-auction "D Block"



#### **How the Market Valued 700MHZ Licenses**



#### Conclusions

- Long and difficult process
- Huge benefits at the end of the process
- Be careful what you ask for
- Spectrum policy matters
- Old analog models don't work
- Citizens, broadcasters, new services all can benefit—zero sum game is a false choice
- But huge opportunities for new two-way broadband services with returned spectrum

