



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).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 19, 2004

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FCC APPROVES FIRST SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIO

Washington, D.C. – The FCC announced today it has approved, for the first time, use of a software defined radio device in the United States. This new class of equipment allows users to share limited airspace, increases flexibility and reduces interference concerns.

“This is the first step in what may prove to be a radio technology revolution,” said FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell. “The industry’s pioneering work to find more creative and efficient use of our airwaves will continue to bring benefits to consumers.”

The Laboratory Division of the Commission’s Office of Engineering and Technology issued a Grant of Certification to Vanu, Inc., a software development company, for a cellular base station transmitter.

Software defined radios can change the frequency range, modulation type or output power of a radio device without making changes to hardware components. This programmable capacity permits radios to be highly adaptable to changing needs, protocols and environments.

Vanu, Inc. has demonstrated that its device complies with the Commission’s rules, and has shown that its software has sufficient controls so that the device cannot be modified to operate outside its Commission-approved parameters. The Commission currently has a rulemaking pending that will further streamline the software defined radio requirements, and it is working with each applicant on a case-by-case basis to facilitate compliance with the current rules.

For questions regarding the SDR proceeding, contact Mr. Hugh Van Tuyl at 202-418-7506. For questions regarding the certification of SDRs or the Vanu applications, contact Mr. Joe Dichoso at 301-362-3024.

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