

# Wireless Innovation Forum Announces Support of Ofcom's White Space Devices Pilot Launch

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The [Wireless Innovation Forum](http://www.WirelessInnovation.org) (<http://www.WirelessInnovation.org>), a non-profit international industry association dedicated to driving the future of [radio communications](#) and systems worldwide, today announced enthusiastic support of Ofcom's 26 April announcement that it will launch a [white space](#) devices pilot program this autumn.



Ofcom's pilot program will use bands previously reserved for digital television and microphones (white spaces) to allow devices to transmit and receive wireless signals for applications such as broadband access for rural communities, Wi-Fi like services or new machine-to-machine networks. The pilot will test the inter-operation of white spaces devices, white space databases and the processes to mitigate against causing any undue interference to current spectrum users.

"The members of the Forum feel that pilot programs such as these are critical for establishing a vibrant spectrum sharing ecosystem, allowing white space device manufacturers, white space database administrators and network operators to work together to mature technologies that maximize the economic potential of our limited spectrum resources," said Lee Pucker, CEO of the Wireless Innovation Forum.

As reflected in the Forum's Advocacy Agenda (<http://groups.winnforum.org/advocacy>) the members feel that such pilot programs provide opportunities for wireless system and applications developers to trial and assess the capabilities of their innovative technologies in more complex environments (section 2.2, Innovation and Competition, of the Agenda <http://groups.winnforum.org/p/cm/ld/fid=355>), while reducing barriers to entry and promoting technological innovation, enabling incumbents and entrepreneurs to pursue new business opportunities throughout the wireless value chain (section 2.4 Innovation and Competition, of

the Agenda <http://groups.winnforum.org/p/cm/ld/fid=355>).

In supporting Ofcom's pilot efforts, the Forum recommends that specific focus should be placed on:

- the capabilities of cognitive radios and other spectrum sharing technologies,
- ways to reliably identify harmful interference,
- measuring spectrum efficiency,
- determining ways to increase spectrum efficiency and
- investigating new efficient technologies, as well as their potential value to the economy and society (see section 2.2, Innovation and Competition, of the Agenda <http://groups.winnforum.org/p/cm/ld/fid=355>)

In addition, the Forum also encourages the open testing of spectrum etiquettes in this pilot to facilitate innovation that would improve spectrum efficiency and to assure that performance objectives are being met (see section 3.2.4, Spectrum, of the Agenda <http://groups.winnforum.org/p/cm/ld/fid=356#3.2>). Such etiquettes include cooperative sensing techniques that help address the hidden node problem, and techniques that help expand the radio environment map database model to include registering accurate transmitter and receiver characteristics for radio systems operating in a specific location at a specific time (see section 3.2.5, Spectrum, of the Agenda <http://groups.winnforum.org/p/cm/ld/fid=356#3.2>).

To create the Advocacy Agenda, the Forum's Regulatory Committee sought participation from the different stakeholders and leveraged the body of work that has been approved by the Forum's members that advocate positions to advance wireless innovation in spectrum utilization and radio technologies. The Advocacy Agenda is composed of five focus areas: Essential and Critical Communications, Innovation and Competition, Spectrum, Security and Interoperability. To learn more and download the full Agenda: <http://groups.winnforum.org/advocacy>.

Established in 1996, The Wireless Innovation Forum (SDR Forum Version 2.0) is a non-profit mutual benefit corporation dedicated to driving technology innovation in commercial, civil, and defense communications worldwide. Members bring a broad base of experience in Software Defined Radio (SDR), Cognitive Radio (CR) and Dynamic Spectrum Access (DSA) technologies in diverse markets and at all levels of the wireless value chain to address emerging wireless communications requirements. To learn more about The Wireless Innovation Forum, its meetings and membership benefits, visit [www.WirelessInnovation.org](http://www.WirelessInnovation.org).

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