

Etheric Networks Secures CBRS Spectrum for Fixed Wireless in Multiple California Counties

Expanded service in California will serve rural and underserved communities in eleven counties, including Monterey, San Benito and the north-eastern Sierras



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SAN MATEO, CA, UNITED STATES,
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[Etheric Networks](#), the leading provider of wireless internet service in the Bay Area, today announced it has secured spectrum through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) auction for licenses in the shared Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) band. These licenses are in the counties of Alpine, Colusa, Inyo, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Plumas, San Benito, Siskiyou & Trinity.

Alexander Hagen, CEO, Etheric Networks, said: "The significance of the 2020 CBRS auction cannot be understated. It is one of the first spectrum auctions to allow bids at a county level, instead of an entire metropolitan area. This change opens the door for smaller operators to add licensed spectrum that is tailored to their coverage areas."

The CBRS spectrum is used in fixed wireless applications. Fixed wireless delivers high-speed, reliable and secure broadband with speeds up to 250 Mbps. Initiatives that will roll out from Etheric's successful bids include:

- Expanding Etheric's southern network border along its existing dark fiber backbone.

This will allow Etheric to provide San Benito and Monterey counties with 9/11- grade voice service over high-speed fixed wireless. The company expects to see several hundred megabits capacity per user, with a download and upload goal of 100 megabits.

- Partnering with local ISPs in remote mountainous rural regions.

Etheric has also obtained spectrum licenses in the remote counties of Alpine, Inyo, Mono, Plumas, Lassen, Modoc, Siskiyou, Trinity, and Colusa. It would like to partner with existing or help establish new local ISPs in those regions, with the goal of keeping at least 80% of the income in the community.

- More efficient use of network bandwidth.

Networks built on unlicensed spectrum must diligently coordinate and manage frequencies in order to insulate customers from varying spectrum quality. This often means budgeting extra bandwidth to maintain guaranteed service levels. With CBRS licensed spectrum all devices are

registered and calibrated so they don't interfere with each other.

Access to the CBRS band will change the fixed wireless industry in several ways. Small internet service providers can now offer roaming services to cellular operators, and potentially trade permissions for priority license use with each other. It's also likely that co-ops will form amongst CBRS license holders to address the back end for cellular roaming data.

Additional benefits of using CBRS spectrum:

- The 3.5 GHz band will be open to anyone

The FCC will make CBRS commercially available to pretty much everyone, not just large mobile operators. This means non-traditional mobile operators will likely bring new products to market for home and business broadband.

- Better indoor and outdoor cellular signal

A private LTE network on the CBRS band could effectively be used in place of or in conjunction with Wi-Fi. It can also address existing cellular coverage gaps in large or spread out facilities such as commercial office parks, skyscrapers, manufacturing plants, hotels and hospitals.

- Greater network security

Wi-Fi is widely considered a non-secure, or easily hackable, platform. CBRS systems will have restricted access based on SIM cards and have configurable network topologies, so IT can use best practices in cybersecurity design.

About Etheric Networks

Etheric Networks is a leading internet service provider dedicated to delivering fast, reliable, and affordable, connectivity for business, government and residential clients. Headquartered in San Mateo, California, Etheric spans the greater Bay Area, using a wholly-owned fiber optic backbone and licensed broadband fixed wireless towers.

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