



# **Spectrum Update**

## **GOES DCS TWG**

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# Topics

GOES 13,14 & 15 versus GOES 16-series Downlink Services  
“Was/Now” DCPR and DCPC Frequencies

Spectrum “Neighbors”:

Advanced Wireless Services-3 (AWS-3) in 1695-1710 MHz  
FCC Band Sharing Proposals at 1675 – 1680 MHz

Growth of Small Satellites

SmallSat Spectrum Options

Space Operations Service

International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and 400 MHz

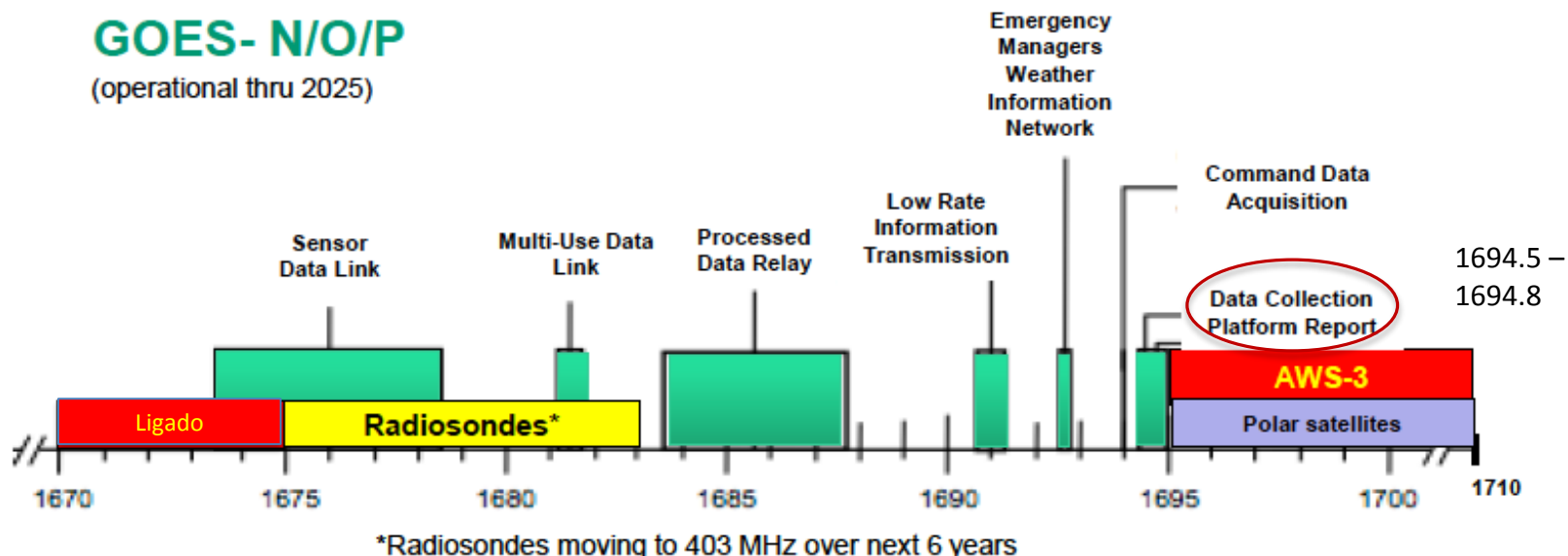
Nomigraphs and DCS



# GOES/GOES-R Services & Spectrum

## GOES- N/O/P

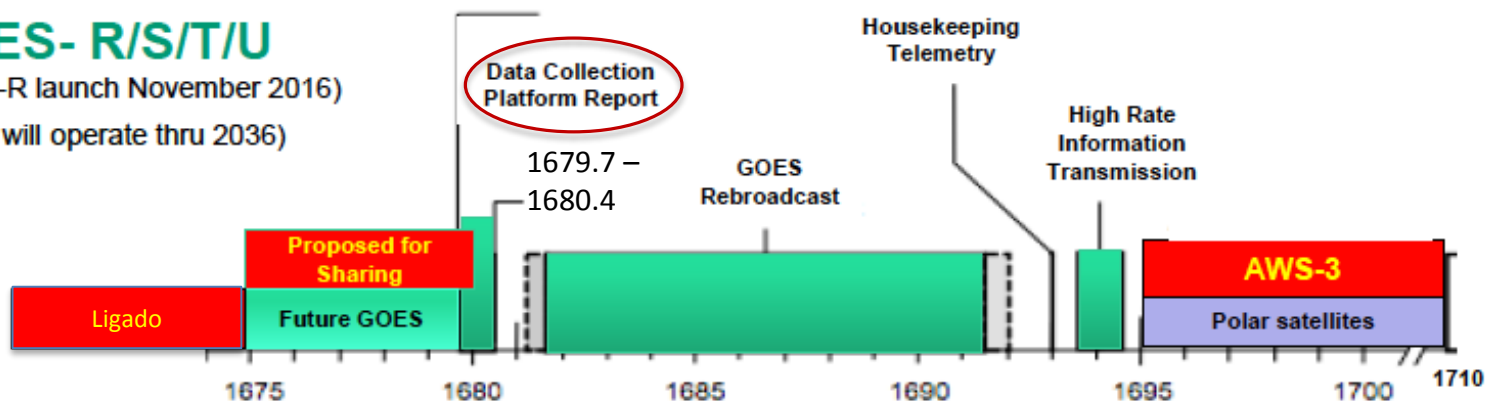
(operational thru 2025)



## GOES- R/S/T/U

(GOES-R launch November 2016)

(Series will operate thru 2036)





# Center Frequencies Associated with DCS

- GOES-13/14/15 vs GOES-16 series Frequencies Associated with DCS

Service	Satellite Family	Frequency (MHz)
DCPR (downlink)	GOES 13,14,15	1694.5 - 1694.8
DCPR (downlink)	GOES-16 series	1679.7 – 1680.4
DCPI (return DL)	GOES 13,14,15	468.825
DCPC (return DL)	GOES-16 series	468.775-468.825
DCPR (uplink)	All Satellites	401.7 – 402.4

- Why did these downlink frequencies change between satellite series?
  - GOES-R satellites have considerably more data in other services broadcast in this band, requiring more bandwidth in other services
  - EMWIN/HRIT and DCS frequencies in GOES-16 series revised to have GOES-ReBroadcast (GRB) between them (see prior slide)

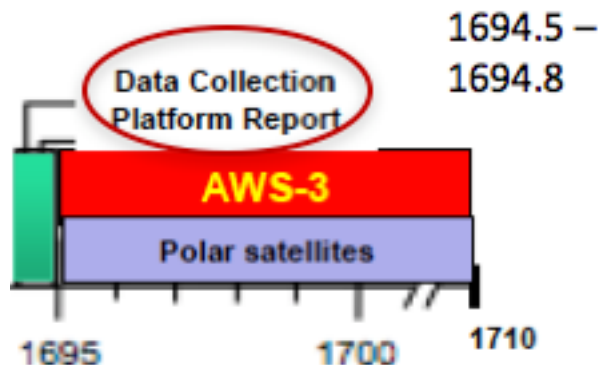


Status: DCPR Adjacent Band Services GOES 13, 14 & 15  
1695 – 1710 MHz (AWS-3)

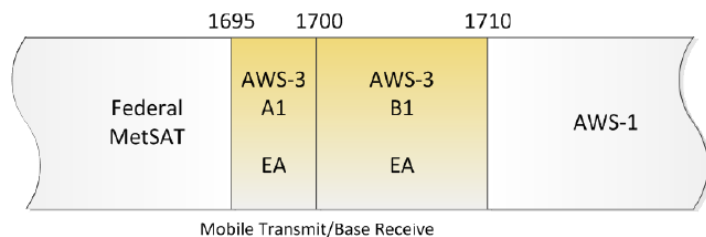


# Adjacent Band Spectrum Neighbors Advanced Wireless Services

- Growth is occurring in spectrum use, by nearly all users
- Federal regulators study Federal spectrum use and opt to share some bands with commercial users



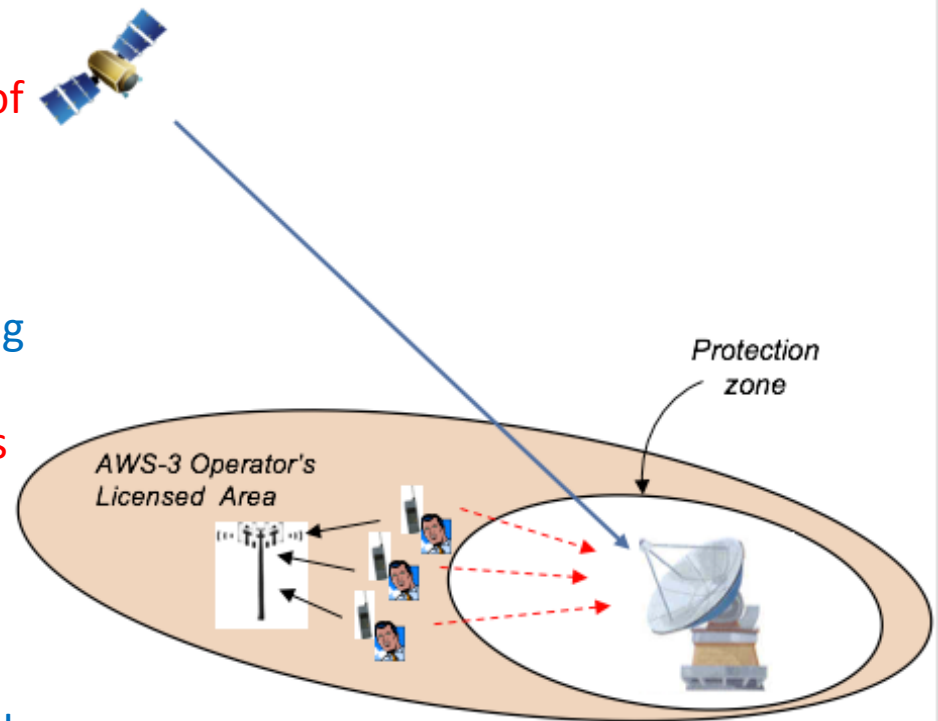
- In 2015, the band adjacent to legacy GOES DCPR was sold at auction for use in handset-to-tower commercial broadband.
- Provisions were made for select Federal stations to have Protection Zones where towers would prevent handsets from being used in this band.
- This 1695 – 1710 MHz was divided into two blocks (A1 & B1) and sold “unpaired” which means it did not come with the tower-to-handset frequencies



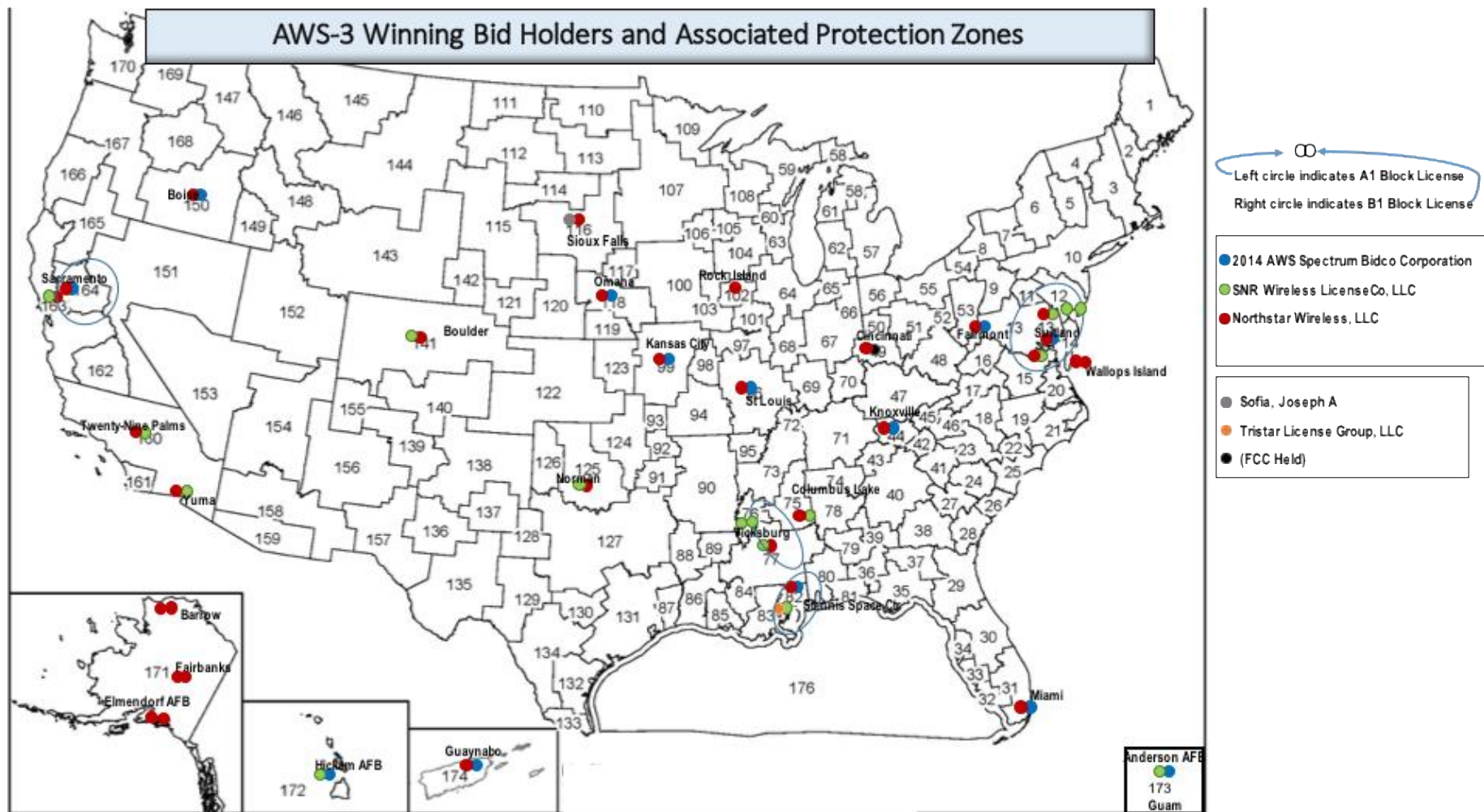


# Why should DCS users care about the adjacent band operation?

- Signals transmitted by handsets (individually or in aggregate) could interfere with DCP reception, if those signals were in proximity of Earth stations.
- Selected Federal sites, received Protection Zones, in the rules of the auction and resulting winning bidder licenses from the FCC
- Any stations other than the ones associated with the 27 zones, does not have any regulatory method to keep handsets away from the Earth station.
- Interference is likely to prevent the reception of DCP data at a given location.



# Stations Near Protected Sites



Note: Only Zones in Proximity to Listed Federal Sites Shown. Nearly All Blocks Sold. 8





# Protection Zones Near DCS Sites

- Table Describes Zones Near Relevant Sites, zone size and winning bidders of the two spectrum blocks.

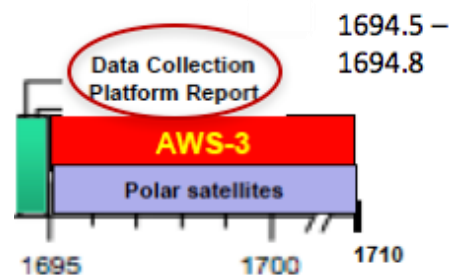
Federal Earth Station Protection Zones (subset)			Market (BEA)Market (BEA)	Holder of Winning Bid from Auction	Holder of Winning Bid from Auction
Location	State	Radius (km)		A1 Block: 1695-1700	B1 Block: 1700-1710
Fairbanks	AK	20	Anchorage AK	Northstar Wireless LLC	Northstar Wireless LLC
Suitland	MD	98	Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle PA	Northstar Wireless LLC	SNR Wireless LicenseCo LLC
Suitland	MD	98	Phil.-Atl. City PA NJ DE MD	SNR Wireless LicenseCo LLC	SNR Wireless LicenseCo LLC
Suitland	MD	98	Wash. Balt. DC MD VA WB PA	Northstar Wireless LLC	2014 AWS Spectrum Bidco Corp
Suitland	MD	98	Richmond-Peterburg VA	Northstar Wireless LLC	SNR Wireless LicenseCo LLC
Stennis Space Center	MS	57	Biloxi-Gulfport-Pascagoula MS	Northstar Wireless LLC	2014 AWS Spectrum Bidco Corp
Stennis Space Center	MS	57	New Orleans LA MS	Tristar License Group LLC	SNR Wireless LicenseCo LLC
Sioux Falls	SD	42	Sioux Falls SD-IA-MN-NE	Sofio, Joseph A	Northstar Wireless LLC
Wallops Island	VA	30	Salisbury MD DE VA	Northstar Wireless LLC	Northstar Wireless LLC
Sacramento	CA	55	San Fran.-Oakland-San Jose CA	SNR Wireless LicenseCo LLC	Northstar Wireless LLC
Sacramento	CA	55	Sacramento-Yolo CA	Northstar Wireless LLC	2014 AWS Spectrum Bidco Corp
Boise	ID	39	Boise City ID OR	Northstar Wireless LLC	2014 AWS Spectrum Bidco Corp
Rock Island	IL	19	Davenport-Moline IA IL	Northstar Wireless LLC	Northstar Wireless LLC
St. Louis	MO	34	St. Louis MO IL	Northstar Wireless LLC	2014 AWS Spectrum Bidco Corp
Columbus Lake	MS	3	Tupelo MS AL TN	Northstar Wireless LLC	SNR Wireless LicenseCo LLC
Vicksburg	MS	16	Greenville MS	SNR Wireless LicenseCo LLC	SNR Wireless LicenseCo LLC
Vicksburg	MS	16	Jackson MS AL LA	SNR Wireless LicenseCo LLC	Northstar Wireless LLC
Cincinnati	OH	32	Cincinnati-Hamilton OH KY IN	Northstar Wireless LLC	(No Bidder During Auction)
Knoxville	TN	50	Knowville TN	Northstar Wireless LLC	2014 AWS Spectrum Bidco Corp
Fairmont	WV	4	Pittsburgh PA WV	Northstar Wireless LLC	2014 AWS Spectrum Bidco Corp

Note: Entities listed in red have partial ownership by Dish Network or Dish affiliates



# Current Status AWS-3 1695-1710

- No bidder is currently operating in the 1695-1710 MHz band
- Bidders affiliated with Dish, combined this band with other spectrum owned by Dish Network – and received approval for a new cellular band -- Band 70 in the 3GPP standard for LTE
- Dish Network has build out requirements for the paired tower spectrum in Band 70 of March 2020
  - It is unclear when the final installations or operations will occur in this band and when Band 70 will become widely included in smartphones
  - All licensees must coordinate with DOC, and no coordination requests are expected within the next few months -
- Note: GOES-13, 14, and 15 DCPR channels are 200 kHz below the 1695-1700 MHz AWS-3 channel block

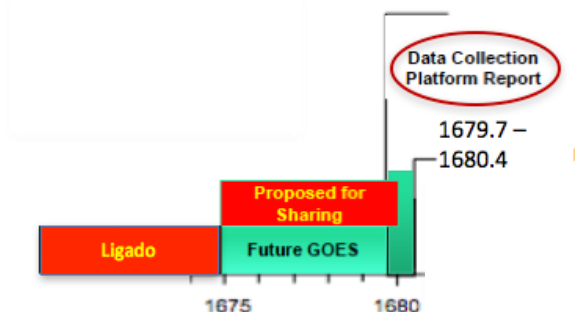




Status: Adjacent and In-Band to GOES-R DCPR  
Petition to Share 1675 – 1680 MHz



# Petition to Share 1675 - 1680 MHz



- A commercial provider has petitioned the FCC to share 1675-1680 MHz, because it is adjacent to nationally leased spectrum they have in 1670-1675 MHz
- Ligado Networks has been working to get some regulatory decision in this band for several years.
- This portion of spectrum, proposed for tower transmissions to users, is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of what they require for full service. Three other blocks of spectrum, unrelated to hydrology frequencies, are also in discussion by regulators.
- The next step by the FCC would be to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, with another public comment period. There is no indication of when such FCC action would occur.

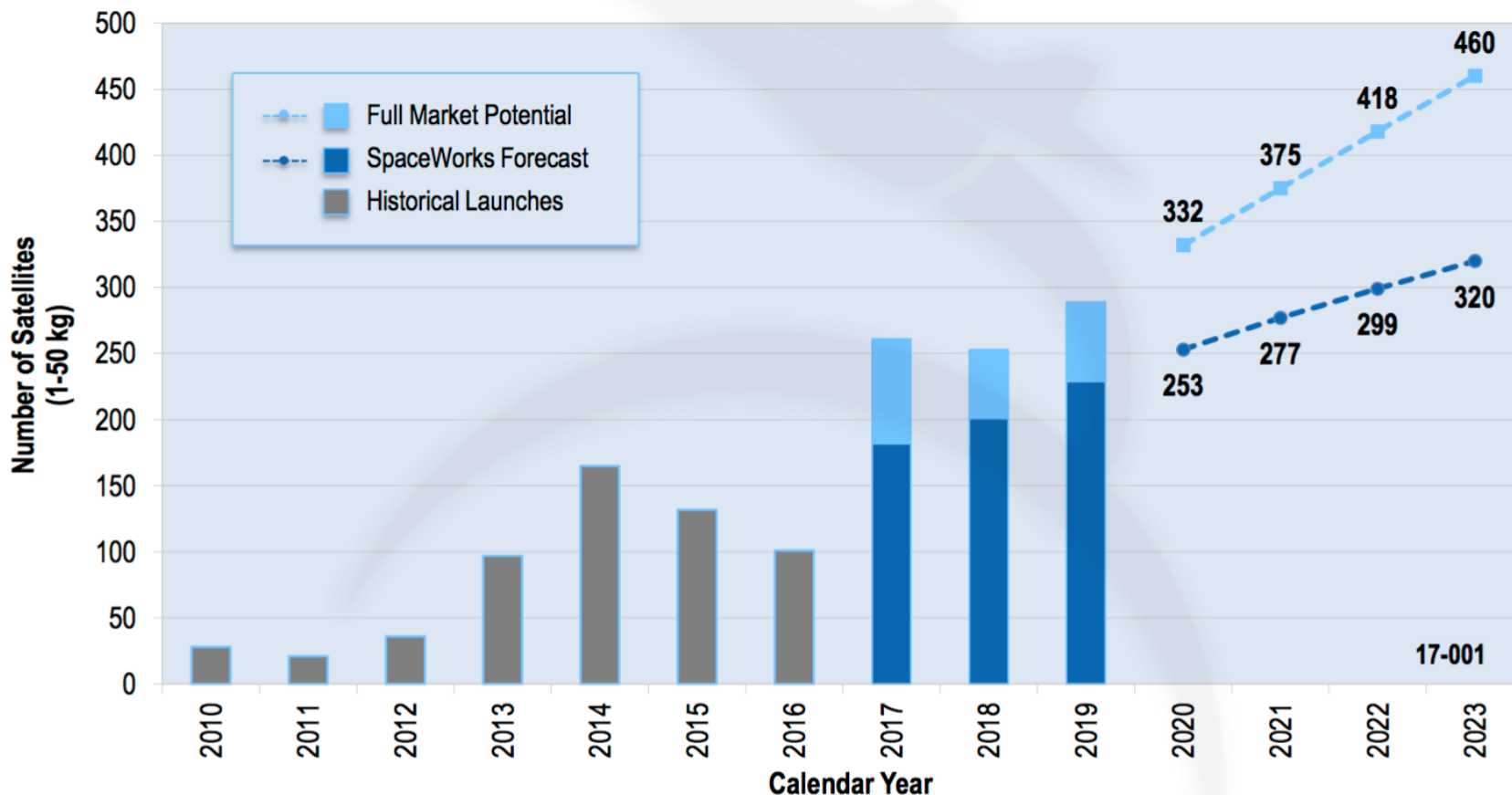


## Small Satellites and VHF



# Growth of Small Satellites

- Nearly 2,400 satellites below 50 km size projected from 2017 through 2023



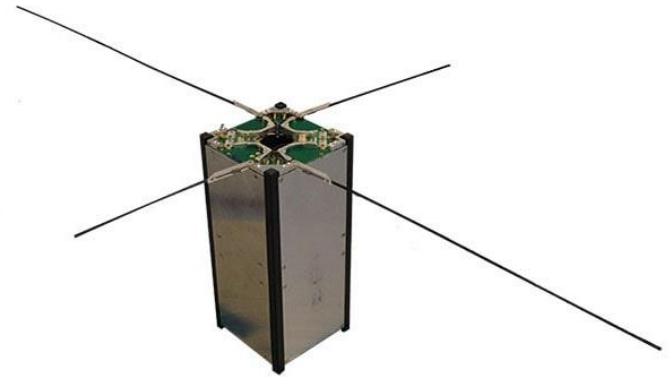
Source: Spaceworks Enterprises

There is no standard downlink allocation for smallsat operations in the 400 MHz band



# SmallSat Downlinks Omnidirectional

- Many small satellites have dipole antennas for transmission in all directions – for intended space-to-earth links
- How many signals in the 400-406 MHz band can the GOES-R receiver tolerate?
- The answer may be upwards of 250 satellites simultaneously in view of GOES, with signal transmissions toward geostationary orbit. A precise number that could degrade reception is difficult to determine
- Even with so many satellites – having that many with simultaneous signals radiating toward GOES/GOES-R might not occur



Source: Innovative Solutions in Space



# IARU Frequency Guidelines

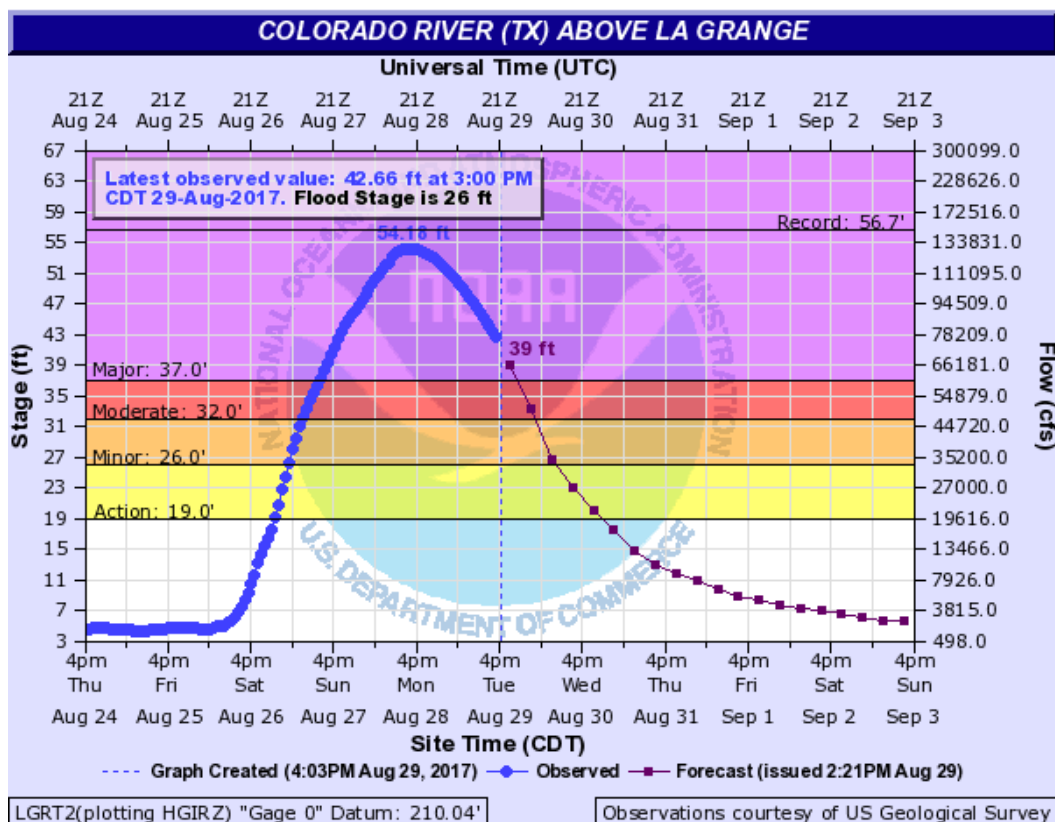
- Many small satellites file with Amateur Radio frequency bands
- The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has come out in opposition to the widespread use – especially when the amateur connection is dubious.
- The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) noted that the use of 144-146 MHz and 435 – 438 MHz by non-amateur satellites is not in accordance with the radio regulations
- International recommendations were that “satellites with short duration missions” should use spectrum for space operations
  - 150.05 to 174 MHz (not used for satellites by FCC), and
  - **400.15 to 420 MHz** (in U.S. 400.15 – 401 MHz, 401 – 402 MHz are allocated for satellite downlinks for space operations)
- Will this drive more short duration satellites into the bands near the DCP uplink frequencies?
- ITU also has an Agenda Item 1.7, for 2019 conference, which may or may not help in alleviating pressure for other uses in the 400 MHz band.
  - Study of Telemetry & Command for non-Geostationary Short-Duration (Satellite) Missions, potentially to consider new frequency allocations.





# River Graphs & DCS Gages

- River Nomigraphs are not commonly identified with DCS
  - See Example LGRT2 Gage in Texas
- Perhaps the community should communicate the DCS contribution more widely



Source: NOAA AHPS