

Alcatel-Lucent Applauds Spectrum/Public Safety Legislation Included in Payroll Tax Bill

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Last night Congressional leadership agreed on final provisions to be included in H.R. 3630, an extension of the payroll tax cut. Included in the legislation are critical provisions that will free up additional spectrum for use by commercial mobile broadband service providers, and fund the creation of a nationwide interoperable mobile broadband network for public safety first responders.

“Today’s action by the U.S. Congress is critical for addressing the growing spectrum crunch faced by the commercial mobile broadband industry, and will leverage the power of the mobile Internet to spur continued innovation and economic growth across our nation” said Robert Vrij, President of Alcatel-Lucent’s Americas Region.

With respect to the legislation’s public safety network deployment provisions, Vrij noted, “serving the public safety market is a company priority and point of pride for Alcatel-Lucent. This legislation’s public safety provisions are critical for *empowering* the U.S. public safety community by ensuring they have the access to the latest in mobile broadband technologies. A nationwide mobile broadband network based on open standards and competition is a game-changer for public safety and Alcatel-Lucent looks forward to working hand-in-hand with the public safety community nationwide to embrace this critical opportunity.” Vrij said.

Kevin Krufky, Vice President of Public Affairs for Alcatel-Lucent’s Americas Region added, “Alcatel-Lucent applauds Congress and the Administration for making this legislation a bipartisan reality: Chairman Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), Ranking Member Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI), Ranking Member Henry Waxman (D-CA), Subcommittee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), and Subcommittee Ranking Member Anna Eshoo (D-CA). We also recognize the hard work and long hours put in by Congressional staff who made today’s legislation possible,” Krufky said.