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For more information, please contact:  
Jessica Bridges, [jbridges@ruraltelecomgroup.org](mailto:jbridges@ruraltelecomgroup.org) (202) 551-0025

**RTG LAUDS FCC FOR PROVIDING GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO SMALL  
AND RURAL PROVIDERS IN AWS BAND**

On August 5, 2005, the FCC announced that it had modified its rules for the upcoming auction of advanced wireless services (AWS) spectrum. The FCC changed its AWS auction rules to increase the amount of spectrum licensed on a small geographic area basis from 10 MHz to 20 MHz. The use of such small geographic areas provides greater opportunities for smaller rural or regional providers to obtain access to this spectrum at auction.

Rural Telecommunications Group, Inc. (RTG), working alongside T-Mobile, had requested that the Commission change its original AWS band plan in order to provide more flexibility to small and rural carriers seeking to serve smaller geographic areas. The use of large geographic areas generally makes it difficult for such small carriers to afford auctioned spectrum. The FCC concluded that a mixture of license options was in the public interest and responded favorably to the RTG and T-Mobile request.

“The FCC’s Order is a major victory for rural carriers and their customers,” noted RTG Counsel, Carri Bennet. “The FCC listened to rural and regional carriers and its wise decision will bring advanced wireless services to rural areas,” she added. Jessica Bridges, Chief Executive Officer of RTG, noted that “the FCC’s consolidation of spectrum blocks will allow rural carriers to avoid costly and time-consuming transitions for current BRS licensees operating on BRS channels 1 and 2A.” She also added that “RTG is pleased to have been successful in its alliance with T-Mobile and looks forward to working with T-Mobile in the future.”

*RTG is a Section 501(c)(6) trade association dedicated to promoting wireless opportunities for rural telecommunications companies through advocacy and education in a manner that best represents the interests of its membership. RTG’s members have joined together to speed delivery of new, efficient, and innovative telecommunications technologies to the populations of remote and underserved sections of the country. RTG’s members provide wireless telecommunications services, such as cellular telephone service and Personal Communications Services, among others, to their subscribers. RTG’s members are small businesses serving or seeking to serve secondary, tertiary and rural markets. RTG’s members are comprised of both independent wireless carriers and wireless carriers that are affiliated with rural telephone companies. More information is available at [www.ruraltelecomgroup.org](http://www.ruraltelecomgroup.org).*