

status, the winning bidder must file with the Commission, in lieu of a long-form application for an MDS station license, a statement of intention with regard to the BTA service area, showing the encumbered nature of the BTA, identifying the incumbents, and describing in detail its plan for obtaining the previously authorized or proposed MDS stations within the BTA. We do not intend to force winning bidders to file long-form applications for MDS station licenses in BTAs so encumbered that the only proposed station to not cause harmful interference to incumbents would, for example, be a facility with a one watt transmitter and a highly directional antenna, serving no significant population. Winning bidders must, however, document in their statements of intention that additional MDS stations with average transmitted power could not be constructed in their BTAs without causing harmful interference to previously authorized or proposed MDS and ITFS facilities. If a winning bidder fails to file either this statement of intention or a long-form application within the thirty day period, it will be in default and will be subject to the appropriate default payments. The statement of intention should also include a FCC Form 430, a drug certification, and the same exhibits concerning the winning bidder's involvement in bidding consortia and status as a designated entity that must be attached to initial long-form applications. See *supra* ¶ 117.

120. The Commission will, following its review of the winning bidder's statement of intention, issue the BTA authorization to the winning bidder. Such issuance of the BTA authorization will, of course, be made only following full payment by the winning bidder as set forth in ¶ 109, except for a small business making installment payments. Parties wishing to comment on or oppose the issuance of a BTA authorization issued in connection with the filing of a statement of intention by a winning bidder must do so prior to the Commission's issuance of the BTA authorization.

121. Period of MDS Station Licenses. Under the Commission's rules, licenses for MDS stations are to be "issued for a period not to exceed 10 years." 47 CFR 21.45(a). "Unless otherwise specified by the Commission," the expiration of MDS station licenses as a class is, however, set on a single date (May 1) "in the year of expiration" (*i.e.*, the year which is ten years from the last expiration date of the class of MDS licenses, which was 1991). *Id.* Thus, the current term for all MDS station licenses as a class will expire on May 1, 2001,

regardless of when these licenses are awarded. Because MDS station licenses as a class are due to expire on this set date, an MDS licensee who receives its station license on, for example, May 1, 1996 would in effect have the license for only five years before the licensee must apply for renewal.

122. For the reasons set forth herein, we believe that MDS auction winners should not be subject to the fixed MDS station license renewal cycle which, under existing rules, will expire on May 1, 2001, only five years or so from the time that any auction winner could expect to receive its initial station license in its BTA service area. We believe all winning bidders in the MDS auction should be assured of receiving station licenses of a duration sufficient so that they may have a reasonable period of time to construct their systems and earn a return on the amounts they invested in acquiring the BTA authorizations and MDS station licenses by competitive bidding. In addition, we realize that bidders who must arrange financing will need to assure lenders that they will have possession of their MDS station licenses for a reasonably lengthy period of time. We therefore determine that all MDS station licenses granted in every BTA service area auctioned should be for a ten year period (the maximum specified in Section 21.45(a)) to run from the date that the Commission declares bidding in the MDS auction to be closed.

123. We conclude that awarding MDS station licenses with definite ten year terms, rather than much briefer, indeterminate terms dependent on when the license is granted, serves both prospective bidders and the Commission well. As described above, the set ten year period is of sufficient certainty and length to be fair to parties who must now pay considerable sums, and perhaps obtain outside financing, in order to acquire BTA authorizations and MDS station licenses. In addition, we note that granting MDS station licenses with set ten year terms will allow small businesses eligible for installment financing to make payments over a period comparable to the length of their initial station licenses. Furthermore, specifying that MDS licenses for stations located in BTA service areas acquired by competitive bidding will be for ten year terms dated from the close of bidding in the MDS auction, rather than from the actual date of issuance of each individual station license, will be administratively convenient for the Commission. Because all MDS station licenses granted within BTA service areas acquired by competitive bidding will expire on the same date, the

Commission will be able to easily process those licenses and to deal more expeditiously with their renewal. In accordance with Section 21.45(a), we hereby specify that all MDS station licenses granted in every BTA service area auctioned will have ten year terms from the date that the Commission declares bidding in the MDS auction closed.

6. Regulatory Safeguards

124. Unjust Enrichment and Anti-Trafficking Provisions. Congress directed that we take steps to prevent unjust enrichment due to trafficking in licenses that were obtained through competitive bidding. See 47 U.S.C. 309(j)(4)(E). In Section 7 below, we adopt specific rules to prevent designated entities from taking advantage of special provisions for such entities by transferring control of their BTA authorizations immediately following the MDS auction. Moreover, the MDS rules already contain provisions to reduce trafficking. See 47 CFR 21.39 (generally prohibiting assignment or transfer of MDS conditional station licenses prior to completion of construction of facility). These existing anti-trafficking provisions will continue to apply to MDS conditional station licenses granted prior to the institution of competitive bidding procedures. Consistent with the Second Report and Order, however, the existing MDS-specific anti-trafficking provisions will not apply to BTA authorizations and MDS conditional station licenses granted within auctioned BTA service areas.

125. With regard to BTA authorizations obtained by auction outside of the designated entity context, an applicant seeking approval for an assignment or transfer of control of a BTA authorization within three years of receipt of such authorization by means of competitive bidding must, together with its assignment or transfer application, file with the Commission a statement indicating that its authorization was obtained through competitive bidding. Such applicant must also file with the Commission the associated contracts for sale, option agreements, management agreements, or other documents disclosing the total consideration received in return for the assignment or transfer of the authorization. We will give particular scrutiny to auction winners who have not yet begun commercial service within their BTA service areas and who seek approval for an assignment or transfer of control of their authorizations within three years after