

(i) Sequencing. The Commission will establish and may vary the sequence in which the BTA service areas will be auctioned.

(ii) Grouping. In the event the Commission uses either a simultaneous multiple round competitive bidding design or combinational bidding, the Commission will determine which BTA service areas will be auctioned simultaneously or in combination.

(iii) Reservation price. The Commission may establish a reservation price, either disclosed or undisclosed, below which a BTA service area subject to auction will not be awarded.

(iv) Minimum bid increments. The Commission will, by announcement before or during an MDS auction, require minimum bid increments in dollar or percentage terms.

(v) Stopping rules. The Commission will establish stopping rules before or during multiple round MDS auctions in order to terminate an auction within a reasonable time.

(vi) Activity Rules. The Commission will establish activity rules which require a minimum amount of bidding activity. In the event that the Commission establishes an activity rule in connection with a simultaneous multiple round auction, the Commission will allow bidders to request and to receive automatically waivers of such rule, the number of which will be determined by the Commission.

(vii) Suggested minimum bid. The Commission may establish suggested minimum bids on each BTA service area subject to auction. Bids below the suggested minimum bid would count as activity under the activity rule only if no bids at or above the suggested minimum bid are received.

(b) Identities of bidders. The Commission will generally release information concerning the identities of bidders before each auction but may choose, on an auction-by-auction basis, to withhold the identity of the bidders associated with bidder identification numbers. The Commission will announce by public notice before the MDS auction where the bidders' identities will be revealed.

(c) Commission control of auction. The Commission may delay, suspend, or cancel an MDS auction in the event of a natural disaster, technical obstacle, evidence of security breach, unlawful bidding activity, administrative necessity, or for any other reason that affects the fair and efficient conduct of the competitive bidding. The Commission also has the authority, at its sole discretion, to resume the competitive bidding starting from the

beginning of the current or some previous round or cancel the competitive bidding in its entirety.

#### **§ 21.952 Bidding application procedures.**

(a) Short-form applications. To participate in MDS auctions, all applicants must submit short-form applications, along with all required certifications and exhibits specified by such forms, pursuant to the provisions of § 1.2105(a) and any Commission public notices. See 47 CFR 1.2105(a).

(b) Filing of short-form applications. Prior to any MDS auction, the Commission will issue a public notice announcing the availability of BTA service areas and, in the event that mutually exclusive short-form applications (as defined by § 21.925(a)(2)) are filed, the date of the auction for those BTA service areas. This public notice also will specify the date on or before which applicants intending to participate in an MDS auction must file their short-form applications in order to be eligible for that auction, and it will contain information necessary for completion of the application as well as other important information such as the material which must accompany the forms, any filing fee that must accompany the application or any upfront payment that will need to be submitted, and the location where the application must be filed.

(c) Modification and dismissal of short-form applications.

(1) Any short-form application that is not signed in some manner or form, including by electronic means, and does not contain all requisite certifications is unacceptable for filing and cannot be corrected subsequent to any applicable filing deadline. Such short-form application will be dismissed with prejudice.

(2) The Commission will provide bidders a limited opportunity to cure certain defects specified herein and to resubmit an amended short-form application. For MDS, we classify all amendments to a short-form application as major, except those to correct minor errors or defects, such as typographical errors, or those to reflect ownership changes or formation of bidding consortia or joint bidding arrangements specifically permitted under § 21.953. A short-form application may be modified to make minor amendments. However, applicants who fail to correct defects in their short-form applications in a timely manner as specified by public notice will have their applications dismissed with no opportunity for resubmission.

(3) A short-form application will be considered to be a newly filed

application if it is amended by a major amendment and may not be resubmitted after applicable filing deadlines.

#### **§ 21.953 Prohibition of collusion.**

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of this section, after the filing of short-form applications, all applicants in an MDS auction are prohibited from cooperating, collaborating, discussing or disclosing in any manner the substance of their bids or bidding strategies, or discussing or negotiating settlement agreements, with other applicants until after the winning bidder makes the required down payment, unless such applicants are members of a bidding consortium or other joint bidding arrangement identified on the applicant's short-form application. Communications among applicants concerning matters unrelated to the MDS auction will be permitted after the filing of short-form applications.

(b) Applicants may modify their short-form applications to reflect formation of consortia or changes in ownership at any time before or during an auction, provided such changes do not result in a change in control of the applicant, and provided that the parties forming consortia or entering into ownership agreements have not applied for the same BTA service area.

(c) After the filing of short-form applications, applicants may make agreements to bid jointly for BTA service areas, provided the parties to the agreement have not applied for the same service areas.

(d) After the filing of short-form applications, a holder of a non-controlling attributable interest in an entity submitting a short-form application may, under the circumstances specified in § 1.2105(c)(4), acquire an ownership interest in, form a consortium with, or enter into a joint bidding arrangement with, other applicants for the same BTA service areas. See 47 CFR 1.2105(c)(4).

(e) To reflect the changes in ownership or in the membership of consortia or joint bidding arrangements specified in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of this section, applicants must amend their short-form applications by submitting a revised short-form application, filed within two business days of any such change; such modifications will not be considered major amendments of the applications within the meaning of § 21.952(c)(2). However, any amendment which results in the change of control of an applicant will be considered a major amendment of the short-form.