

---

## FCC Roundtable Is Encouraging for Globalstar

WRG Telecom/ Media February 11, 2015

---

Paul Gallant | 202-747-9454 | [paul.gallant@guggenheimpartners.com](mailto:paul.gallant@guggenheimpartners.com)

### Summary:

- Yesterday, the key parties in the **Globalstar** debate filed a letter ([here](#)) describing their joint meeting at the agency last Friday.
- We view the filing – and particularly the reference to a future technical demonstration – as supporting our view that Globalstar is likely to win FCC approval in 1H 2015.

---

Last Friday, the FCC convened a roundtable meeting to discuss the technical issues raised by Globalstar's proposed 22 MHz managed Wi-Fi service at 2.4 GHz. The following parties participated: Globalstar, the Wi-Fi Alliance, NCTA, Wireless Internet Service Provider Association, and the Bluetooth Special Interest Group. Here is how we interpret that meeting:

**NEARING THE END GAME.** The fact that the FCC staff – including the agency's lead engineer (OET Chief Julius Knapp) organized and participated in the meeting while they are pressed on the broadcast auction and net neutrality – suggests to us that the agency wants to resolve Globalstar's petition soon.

**“DEMONSTRATION” IS POSITIVE SIGN.** We view as positive the letter's announcement of an upcoming demonstration of Globalstar's proposed service. It suggests to us that Globalstar is confident in showing that its service does not materially interfere with neighboring Channel 11, which is part of public Wi-Fi. This is important. If Globalstar can show no material interference, we believe that would remove the final hurdle to FCC approval.

**SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION SHOULD MAKE GLOBALSTAR APPEALING.** If the demonstration shows no meaningful interference to Wi-Fi from TLPS, we think it would become attractive for the agency to move fairly quickly on Globalstar's petition. Two reasons: **1) More wireless capacity.** Putting 22 MHz into the commercial wireless market would advance the agency's top spectrum goal – more spectrum for mobile broadband. **2) No harm – and possible improvement – in public Wi-Fi.** Globalstar has argued that its service would draw some traffic away from 2.4 GHz Wi-Fi. If substantiated, any improvement in public Wi-Fi could be a win for an agency that is highly focused on the consumer and innovation effects of Wi-Fi capacity.