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**For Immediate Release**

**STATEMENT OF FCC CHAIRMAN AJIT PAI  
ON THE CLOSE OF CLOCK PHASE BIDDING IN THE INCENTIVE AUCTION**

WASHINGTON, February 10, 2017 – Today, bidding in the clock phase of the incentive auction concluded. The auction will now proceed to the assignment phase, in which winning forward auction bidders can bid for specific frequency blocks. The following statement is attributable to FCC Chairman Ajit Pai.

“Today, the FCC reached a major milestone in the world’s first incentive auction: bidding in the forward auction ended. Congratulations to the winners in both the reverse and forward auctions. The participation of these broadcasters and wireless carriers will enable the Commission to release 84 megahertz of spectrum into the broadband marketplace. These low-band airwaves will improve wireless coverage across the country and will play a particularly important role in deploying mobile broadband services in rural areas.

“Delivering on the promise of this auction will require a smooth and orderly post-auction transition. That means we must ensure uninterrupted access to over-the-air television and a timely clearing of the new wireless band. We will devote a great deal of attention to those tasks over the coming months, and it will be a top priority of mine as Chairman of this agency.

“I want to express my gratitude to the Members of Congress who enabled the FCC to put a novel auction theory into practice by passing the Spectrum Act of 2012. Their leadership was instrumental in reaching this result.”

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**[www.fcc.gov/leadership/ajit-pai](http://www.fcc.gov/leadership/ajit-pai)**

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*