

**U.S. 3.5 GHz CBRS
Forecast: *The
Disruptive
Spectrum's Final
Rules***

Market Study
Fourth Quarter 2018





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iGR

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Abstract

In April 2015 the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) established the Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) for shared wireless broadband use of the 3550-3700 MHz band (commonly called the 3.5 GHz Band). In late October 2017, and in response to months of petitions and comments, the FCC announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) asking for public comment on multiple aspects of the proposed rules. This announcement not only delayed the final rules, but also injected a great deal of uncertainty around what the final CBRS rules will actually be. After a year of deliberation, the FCC finalized the rules for CBRS in October 2018.

This market study updates two prior *iGR* market studies published in 2017 on CBRS and:

- Provides an explanation of how the CBRS licensing scheme works as currently defined
- Discusses how the technology elements of the new band work
- Identifies the likely use cases of CBRS
- Discusses some of the recent developments from the major players in the CBRS ecosystem.

This market study also provides an updated forecast from 2017 to 2022 of the total number of CBRS nodes expected to be deployed in the U.S. The forecasted number of nodes is categorized by Outdoor WISP, Outdoor non-WISP, Inside Commercial, and Inside Residential.

Key questions addressed in this study:

- What is CBRS?
- What are the different license types of CBRS?
- How does the licensing scheme work, as currently defined? What is the potential impact of the current definition, as compared to the previous rules?
- Who are the likely adopters of CBRS?
- What is the current state of the CBRS market?



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- How many CBRS nodes of the following categories – outdoor WISP, outdoor non-WISP, inside commercial, and inside residential – are expected to be deployed in the U.S. between 2017 and 2022?

This market study is recommended for:

- Mobile operators, particularly those servicing the U.S. market
- Mobile backhaul providers, including telcos and cable MSOs
- Wired and wireless backhaul vendors and solution providers
- Mobile OEMs, particularly those servicing the U.S. market
- Wired and wireless infrastructure vendors, particularly those servicing the U.S. market
- Financial and investment analysts.



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