

Coalition to Save Our GPS Clips
December 27, 2011

LightSquared issued a [press release](#) announcing that it had filed the first set of data from independent testing of precision GPS devices, modified with filter technology:

- "As we anticipated, the data shows that properly filtered high-precision GPS devices do not suffer any loss of accuracy in the presence of LightSquared's signals," said LightSquared's executive vice president for regulatory affairs and public policy, Jeff Carlisle. "The government has not yet begun the next phase of testing, which will focus on high-precision devices, so this is an important indicator as those tests get underway."

[Communications Daily](#) reported the announcement, noting that government regulators have called for testing of such receivers, which has not yet begun.

[TR Daily](#) included comment from Dale Leibach, a spokesman for the Coalition to Save Our GPS:

- "We look forward to studying the new test results filed today. These results, along with independent government testing of high precision receivers to be conducted next year under the auspices of the NTIA, will provide information about whether there are technical solutions for new high precision GPS devices sold in the future.

"None of these results, however, address proven interference to hundreds of thousands of existing high-precision GPS receivers in a wide variety of critical uses. Even if new equipment solutions are fully tested and verified, these existing high-precision receivers will have to be retrofitted or replaced. LightSquared still refuses to accept the financial responsibility for addressing interference to existing devices, and so has not offered a comprehensive solution in any way, shape, or form. This refusal to accept financial responsibility is egregious in light of the multi-billion dollar windfall in increased spectrum value that LightSquared stands to pocket if its plans are allowed to go forward," the coalition spokesman added.

"The government tests results reported earlier this month also make clear that, even after all of the modifications to LightSquared's plans have been taken into account, and contrary to LightSquared's previous claims, its operations will interfere with millions of navigation devices that consumers use every day in their cars and boats. Moreover, there are serious, unresolved interference issues affecting aviation safety. Based on all of the available evidence, LightSquared is still far short of satisfying the FCC's condition that it must demonstrate non-interference to GPS before it can commence operations," the coalition spokesman said.

[Communications Daily](#) reported that LightSquared said in an FCC filing that the GPS Industry Council's request to remove the upper 10 MHz of spectrum from terrestrial broadband use is "unsound" from a "legal and policy perspective."

[Broadcast Engineering](#), [Government Computer News](#), [Satellite Today](#), [eWeek](#) and [The Register](#) continue to report that LightSquared pushed the FCC in a filing to approve its planned network. [The Washington Post](#) reported on the LightSquared filing as well, including a quote from Jim Kirkland:

- "LightSquared, at this point, and basically reacting to continued evidence of interference, continues to modify its plans," said Kirkland. "They are reaching the point where no other modifications can be made other than not operating."

Congressman Mike Turner issued a [statement](#) following the LightSquared filing:

- "The President will shortly sign the National Defense Authorization Act for FY12, which contains a provision I sponsored with Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) that will prohibit FCC approval of the LightSquared network until concerns about its widespread harmful interference with DOD's Global Positioning System are resolved. I understand the company has recently petitioned the FCC to approve its network immediately.

"Such approval, in view of the recent test results of the LightSquared network's effect on GPS receivers, would be prohibited by our legislation. The FCC should take no actions inconsistent with the bipartisan and bicameral position of the Congress that our first goal must be to protect DOD GPS systems."

[The Wall Street Journal](#) reported that Philip Falcone, CEO of the hedge fund that controls LightSquared, has rejected a settlement offer from the SEC that would have banned him from the securities industry. The article notes: "If Mr. Falcone agreed to an exile, it also would threaten his bet on LightSquared Inc., a new wireless-communications firm."

Javad Ashjaee of Javad GNSS, which proposes to solve GPS interference by LightSquared, posted an 8-page "white paper" on his website titled "The Real Interference Issue: Political Noise," which says the interference problems documented through test results are "entirely caused by poor design of GPS receivers." The paper says Ashjaee will host a technical brainstorming session at JAVAD's San Jose facility on Tuesday, Jan. 17, and is inviting all who are interested to participate. The full paper was linked to by [POB Online](#).

A follow-up blog on [Forbes.com](#) revisits filtering on GPS technology in cellphones, which was discussed in a longer piece for the magazine. The blog quotes an unnamed engineer who said "the GPS in a cellphone has to deal with interference from the cellphone itself, so there is more filtering." And while the writer is clearly supportive of LightSquared's plans, the engineer said the argument comes down to public safety: "If a firefighter loses 5 db of sensitivity on his GPS receiver" because it's being drowned out by transmitters next door, he said, "is it worth it to give you video broadband access to YouTube?"

[The Hill](#) reports that the FCC is set to begin the new year with the minimum number of members needed to take official actions because of Sen. Chuck Grassley's block of nominees over the Commission's handling of LightSquared-related documents.

[Telecommunications Reports](#) noted comments made at the Federal Communications Bar Association's annual FCC Chairman's dinner, where Chairman Genachowski joked about LightSquared: "LightSquared has two tables," he said. "A quick note from the Hilton staff - those of you sitting at the upper table will need to vacate the table, and those of you at the lower table are still too loud."

A cite list and links to the full text of these and other articles follow.

1. COMMUNICATIONS DAILY, SECTION: SATELLITE, December 27, 2011 Tuesday, LENGTH: 128 words
2. COMMUNICATIONS DAILY, SECTION: SATELLITE, December 27, 2011 Tuesday, LENGTH: 124 words
3. Broadcast Engineering, LightSquared asks FCC to confirm its rights as spectrum licensee, December 26, 2011, BYLINE: By Michael Grotticelli
4. SATELLITE WEEK, LightSquared Seeks Spectrum Rights Showdown, December 26, 2011 Monday, LENGTH: 827 words
5. SATELLITE WEEK, GPS/NAVIGATION, December 26, 2011 Monday, LENGTH: 124 words
6. Washingtonpost.com, LightSquared asks for ruling from FCC in GPS dispute, December 26, 2011 Monday 8:11 PM EST, BYLINE: StevenOverly
7. COMMUNICATIONS DAILY, SECTION: COMM DAILY(R) NOTEBOOK, December 23, 2011 Friday, LENGTH: 112 words
8. Government Computer News, LightSquared: GPS interference is device-makers' fault, December 23, 2011 Friday, BYLINE: Kathleen Hickey, Government Computer News, LENGTH: 477 words
9. PR Newswire, Independent Lab Tests Verify High-Precision GPS Devices Can Coexist with LightSquared, December 23, 2011 Friday 2:36 PM EST, LENGTH: 544 words
10. Congressional Documents and Publications, Turner Warns FCC not to take Action Inconsistent with Congress' Position on LightSquared Waiver; Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH) News Release, December 22, 2011, SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS
11. Satellite Today, LightSquared Files FCC Petition to Assert Spectrum Licensee Rights, December 22, 2011 Thursday, LENGTH: 234 words
12. Telecommunications Reports, Humor and Telecom Meet For Night at FCBA Dinner, 753 words
13. 1 January 2012
14. Telecommunications Reports, Grassley Hold Remains On Two FCC Nominees, 1 January 2012
15. Telecommunications Reports, Government Cites Interference From LightSquared's Network, 1 January 2012
16. Investment Weekly News, Zamansky & Associates LLC; Zamansky Announces Investigation of Harbinger Capital, 31 December 2011
17. Telecompaper Americas, LightSquared releases tests on modified GPS devices, 27 December 2011
18. eWEEK, LightSquared Pushes for Immediate FCC Action on Defense Bill, 23 December 2011
19. TR Daily, LightSquared FILES ALU TEST RESULTS FOR GPS RECEIVERS, 23 December 2011
20. The Wall Street Journal Online, Hedge Fund Chief Falcone Rejects an Offer to Settle by SEC, By Steve Eder And Jean Eaglesham, 23 December 2011
21. The Hill, FCC one member away from being out of commission, By Brendan Sasso - 12/23/11 11:59 AM ET
22. Forbes, Cellphone Manufacturers Solved GPS Interference Problem, 12/22/2011 @ 12:55PM
23. Seeking Alpha, Spectrum Brands: Focusing On The Right Metrics, 12/27/2011
24. The Register, LightSquared demands FCC ruling; Patience – and money – running out fast, By Bill Ray, Posted in Wireless, 23rd December 2011 14:05 GMT
25. POB Online, JAVAD Releases White Paper on “The Real Interference Issue;” Issues Technical Challenge, December 23, 2011
26. GPS World, Statement by Javad Ashjaee on PNT Advisory Board LightSquared Report, December 20, 2011 By: Javad Ashjaee
27. GPS World, Freemium Model for in-Vehicle LBS, December 20, 2011 By: Janice Partyka, December 2011

Excerpts/Links to Full Text of Articles

COMMUNICATIONS DAILY, SECTION: SATELLITE, December 27, 2011 Tuesday, LENGTH: 128 words

The first set of independent precision GPS receiver testing results shows LightSquared's planned network is compatible with precision devices, LightSquared said in an FCC filing (<http://xrl.us/bmmrme>). Government regulators have said testing of precision GPS receivers was necessary before LightSquared could begin operations, though the government hasn't started such testing. "As we anticipated, the data shows that properly filtered high-precision GPS devices do not suffer any loss of accuracy in the presence of LightSquared's signals," said LightSquared Executive Vice President Jeff Carlisle. "The government has not yet begun the next phase of testing, which will focus on high-precision devices, so this is an important indicator as those tests get underway."

[<Return to top>](#)

COMMUNICATIONS DAILY, SECTION: SATELLITE, December 27, 2011 Tuesday, LENGTH: 124 words

The GPS Industry Council's request to remove the upper 10 MHz of spectrum from terrestrial broadband use is "unsound" from a "legal and policy perspective," said LightSquared in an FCC filing (<http://xrl.us/bmmrme>). LightSquared hasn't done anything that has altered its rights in relation to the commercial GPS industry, which failed to prepare itself for ancillary terrestrial component deployment, LightSquared said. The GPS proposal is baseless because GPS receivers are unlicensed and operate on an "unprotected, non-interference basis," the company said. While LightSquared has offered to initially confine its operations to the lower part of L-band, the GPS industry hasn't shown "a commensurate willingness to compromise," the company said.

[<Return to top>](#)

Broadcast Engineering, LightSquared asks FCC to confirm its rights as spectrum licensee, December 26, 2011, BYLINE: By Michael Grotticelli

LightSquared has asked the FCC to confirm its right to use the spectrum licensed to the company by the federal government and to confirm that commercial GPS manufacturers have no right to interference protection from LightSquared's network since they are not licensed users of that spectrum. "The one inescapable conclusion from two rounds of independent testing is that the incompatibility problem is not caused by LightSquared's network," said Jeff Carlisle, LightSquared's executive vice president for regulatory affairs and public policy. "It is clear that GPS devices are purposefully designed to look into LightSquared's licensed spectrum, and given this evidence, we believe decision-makers should consider LightSquared's legal rights as the licensee." The company claims that commercial GPS manufacturers are responsible for having designed and sold unlicensed devices that use spectrum licensed to LightSquared and its predecessor companies.

"Commercial GPS receivers are not licensed, do not operate under any service rules, and thus are not entitled to any interference protection whatsoever," LightSquared wrote in its petition to the commission. The petition also notes that the FCC itself has stated that the GPS industry has been on notice for almost a decade that LightSquared was planning to use its spectrum to launch a nationwide broadband network.

To read more click [here](#).
<Return to top>

SATELLITE WEEK, LightSquared Seeks Spectrum Rights Showdown, December 26, 2011 Monday, LENGTH: 827 words

LightSquared's petition for declaratory ruling seeks to hold the FCC's and the GPS industry's feet to the fire by dealing with the unresolved issue of L-band and GPS spectrum rights, said LightSquared Executive Vice President Jeff Carlisle in an interview. LightSquared asked the FCC Dec. 20 to issue an expedited ruling finding that LightSquared's proposed service is within its rights under its license (<http://xrl.us/bmmh2w>). The LightSquared filing seemed to show a new tone in dealing with the agency, perhaps reflecting frustration with the continued regulatory uncertainty and a coming network agreement deadline with Sprint, said industry executives. During a conference call with reporters, a GPS industry group accused LightSquared of constructing "revisionist" history.

"The one inescapable conclusion from two rounds of independent testing is that the incompatibility problem is not caused by LightSquared's network," said the filing. "It is clear that GPS devices are purposefully designed to look into LightSquared's licensed spectrum, and given this evidence, we believe decision-makers should consider LightSquared's legal rights as the licensee." Accordingly, the FCC should make clear makers and users of unlicensed GPS devices can't seek FCC protection from operations in adjacent MSS bands, the filing said. The agency should also say licensed "commercial GPS devices that receive GPS signals in the MSS band are 'nonconforming' and inconsistent with the MSS allocation in that band" and "costs of ensuring that GPS devices are compatible with adjacent band operations -- including any costs necessary to retrofit legacy devices -- are the responsibility of GPS manufacturers -- or, at a minimum, are not the obligation of MSS/ATC licensees."

"We went to the FCC to ask them to decide once and for all" if GPS has the right to look into our spectrum, said Carlisle. "I think [the GPS industry] knows the answer is no and decided to have big circus press conference" rather than wait and file comments, which shows they "don't have a legal position that makes any sense," he said. An FCC public notice on LightSquared's request would give a forum to discuss the "underlying issue" of whether GPS has the right to listen into the L-band spectrum, which wasn't addressed as part of the FCC's MSS/ATC waiver process, he said. Carlisle said he hopes to see FCC movement on the request following the holidays.

<Return to top>

SATELLITE WEEK, GPS/NAVIGATION, December 26, 2011 Monday, LENGTH: 124 words

The GPS Industry Council's request to remove the upper 10 MHz of spectrum from terrestrial broadband use is "unsound" from a "legal and policy perspective," said LightSquared in an FCC filing (<http://xrl.us/bmmrmr>). LightSquared hasn't done anything that has altered its rights in relation to the commercial GPS industry, which failed to prepare itself for ancillary terrestrial component deployment, LightSquared said. The GPS proposal is baseless because GPS receivers are unlicensed and operate on an "unprotected, non-interference basis," the company said. While LightSquared has offered to initially confine its operations to the lower part of L-band, the GPS industry hasn't shown "a commensurate willingness to compromise," the company said.

<Return to top>

**Washingtonpost.com, LightSquared asks for ruling from FCC in GPS dispute, December 26, 2011
Monday 8:11 PM EST, BYLINE: Steven Overly**

The struggle over the airwaves that has bogged down Reston-based LightSquared's plans to deploy a wireless broadband network looks like it might be nearing a showdown.

The company made its boldest attempt yet to squash the opposition last week, asking the Federal Communications Commission to issue a declaratory ruling asserting LightSquared's right to use the spectrum.

At issue is the network's potential interference with the receivers on global positioning systems that provide navigation support to consumers, companies and the federal government. Opponents of the project say that interference could cripple industries that rely on GPS and would cost, at minimum, hundreds of millions of dollars to fix.

Those claims gained further support earlier this month when officials from several government agencies reported that tests showed the LightSquared network would interfere with "the majority" of GPS receivers.

"LightSquared, at this point, and basically reacting to continued evidence of interference, continues to modify its plans," said Jim Kirkland, vice president and general counsel at positioning services firm Trimble. "They are reaching the point where no other modifications can be made other than not operating."

To read more click [here](#).
[<Return to top>](#)

**COMMUNICATIONS DAILY, SECTION: COMM DAILY(R) NOTEBOOK, December 23, 2011 Friday,
LENGTH: 112 words**

The FCC shouldn't include discriminatory spectrum use conditions that limit Dish Network's ability to make spectrum available to Verizon Wireless and AT&T, Verizon Wireless said in a meeting with representatives of the FCC International and Wireless Bureaus (<http://xrl.us/bmmor9>). Such conditions "implicate issues that should be addressed, if at all," in a broader proceeding, Verizon said. Such conditions are directly at odds with the FCC's policy to promote secondary market transactions as a source of spectrum, the company said. In the transaction that created LightSquared, the FCC required agency approval for any spectrum deal with the top two wireless companies.

[<Return to top>](#)

**Government Computer News, LightSquared: GPS interference is device-makers' fault, December 23,
2011 Friday, BYLINE: Kathleen Hickey, Government Computer News, LENGTH: 477 words**

Wholesale 4G satellite broadband company LightSquared, whose proposed network came under fire after tests showed it interfered with Global Positioning System signals, is back on the offensive, asking the Federal Communications Commission to confirm its right to use the spectrum licensed to company by the agency.

In addition, LightSquared, in its petition for a declaratory ruling, wants the FCC to confirm that GPS device-makers have no right to interference protections since they are not licensed users of that spectrum.

The one inescapable conclusion from two rounds of independent testing is that the incompatibility problem is not caused by LightSquared's network,? Jeff Carlisle, LightSquared's executive vice president for regulatory affairs and public policy, said a press statement from the company.

To read more click [here](#).
<[Return to top](#)>

PR Newswire, Independent Lab Tests Verify High-Precision GPS Devices Can Coexist with LightSquared, December 23, 2011 Friday 2:36 PM EST, LENGTH: 544 words

Today, LightSquared filed the first set of data from independent testing of precision GPS devices which were modified to coexist with the company's proposed nationwide 4G LTE network.

"As we anticipated, the data shows that properly filtered high-precision GPS devices do not suffer any loss of accuracy in the presence of LightSquared's signals," said LightSquared's executive vice president for regulatory affairs and public policy, Jeff Carlisle. "The government has not yet begun the next phase of testing, which will focus on high-precision devices, so this is an important indicator as those tests get underway."

The government's testing has already confirmed that more than 300 million GPS-enabled cell phones are compatible with LightSquared's signal. This, along with the independent test results available today, proves that engineering solutions are possible, and interference issues are avoidable.

LightSquared has made a commitment to bring world-class wireless broadband connectivity to 260 million Americans by 2015, and plans to do so by investing \$14 billion in private equity in the nation's broadband infrastructure. The company will continue to work with the federal government to arrive at a complete solution so that it may begin building out its network, which will create jobs, foster competition and bring more affordable wireless broadband to underserved communities across America.

To read more click [here](#).
<[Return to top](#)>

Congressional Documents and Publications, Turner Warns FCC not to take Action Inconsistent with Congress' Position on LightSquared Waiver; Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH) News Release, December 22, 2011, SECTION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOCUMENTS

Washington, D.C., Dec 22 - Today, Congressman Mike Turner released the following statement upon LightSquared's petition to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) seeking immediate approval of its proposed network, which interferes with Department of Defense (DOD) Global Positioning Systems (GPS) receivers:

"The President will shortly sign the National Defense Authorization Act for FY12, which contains a provision I sponsored with Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) that will prohibit FCC approval of the LightSquared network until concerns about its widespread harmful interference with DOD's Global Positioning System are resolved. I understand the company has recently petitioned the FCC to approve its network immediately.

"Such approval, in view of the recent test results of the LightSquared network's effect on GPS receivers, would be prohibited by our legislation. The FCC should take no actions inconsistent with the bipartisan and bicameral position of the Congress that our first goal must be to protect DOD GPS systems."

To read more click [here](#)
<[Return to top](#)>

Satellite Today, LightSquared Files FCC Petition to Assert Spectrum Licensee Rights, December 22, 2011 Thursday, LENGTH: 234 words

[Satellite TODAY 12-22-11] LightSquared has filed a petition with the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to confirm its right to use the spectrum licensed to the company by the federal government, the 4G-LTE wholesaler announced Dec. 21.

"The one inescapable conclusion from two rounds of independent testing is that the incompatibility problem is not caused by LightSquared's network," LightSquared Executive Vice President for Regulatory Affairs and Public Policy Jeff Carlisle said in a statement. "It is clear that GPS devices are purposefully designed to look into LightSquared's licensed spectrum, and given this evidence, we believe decision-makers should consider LightSquared's legal rights as the licensee."

<[Return to top](#)>

Telecommunications Reports, Humor and Telecom Meet For Night at FCBA Dinner, 753 words 1 January 2012

Telecom regulation is not generally funny, except for when it comes to the Federal Communications Bar Association's annual FCC Chairman's dinner, when it can be quite humorous. At least in that nerdy, inside-the-industry kinda way.

Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski used that bully pulpit Dec. 8 to take playful shots at everything from his fellow regulators and aides to telecom bigwigs and large proceedings the agency tackled in the last year during a nearly 30-minute speech and presentation that included more bits than you can shake a stick at. Most seemed to go over well, while others ... well, there is always next year.

One of the more well-received skits of the night was a short film where Mr. Genachowski's chief of staff Eddie Lazarus took on the role of former Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain's campaign manager Mark Block in recreating a now infamous advertisement where Mr. Block praised his boss, then took a drag from his cigarette and exhaled into the camera.

In this instance, the parody advertisement was supposed to be for the newly created Connect America Fund as part of an effort to have Americans buy into universal service reform.

Mr. Lazarus, wearing a fake mustache that seemed to be on the verge of falling off, looked at the camera and said the FCC in its efforts to reform the program "has run a campaign like no one has ever seen. But then again, no one has ever seen a program as [bleeped] up as USF. I really believe that the Connect America Fund is going to put the 'universal' back in universal service." Mr. Lazarus then mimicked Mr. Block's actions, cigarette smoking and all.

[<Return to top>](#)

Telecommunications Reports, Grassley Hold Remains On Two FCC Nominees, 1 January 2012

A hold by Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R., Iowa.) continues to block the nominations of two FCC Commissioner nominees.

The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Dec. 8 approved the nominations of Jessica Rosenworcel and Ajit Pai to be FCC Commissioners. The panel also cleared the nominations of Federal Trade Commission Chairman Jon D. Leibowitz and Maureen K. Ohlhausen to be an FTC Commissioner, as well as the nomination of Rebecca M. Blank to be deputy Commerce secretary.

"When it comes to putting leaders at the helm of the FTC and FCC, there are no better candidates than the accomplished public servants the Commerce Committee approved today. We need effective consumer advocates. I am especially pleased to move forward with Ms. Rosenworcel's nomination. Her expertise on communications policy will be a major asset to the Commission," Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John (Jay) D. Rockefeller IV (D., W.Va.) said in a statement. "I'm confident we can address any concerns about the nominees quickly so we can clear the way for full Senate confirmation."

But Sen. Grassley has placed a hold on the FCC nominees due to the FCC's refusal to provide documents related to the LightSquared, Inc., proceeding.

[<Return to top>](#)

Telecommunications Reports, Government Cites Interference From LightSquared's Network, 1 January 2012

The federal government said that a preliminary analysis of follow-up testing on interference between LightSquared, Inc.'s network and general location/navigation Global Positioning System (GPS) devices shows that LightSquared's transmissions "caused harmful interference to the majority" of the GPS receivers. Interference was also found to an aviation flight safety system, the government said.

The government released a statement following a Dec. 14 meeting of the Executive Steering Group of the National Executive Committee for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT), which represents eight government agencies with GPS interests. The steering group reviewed the results of testing on general location/navigation and cellular GPS devices.

"Preliminary analysis of the test findings found no significant interference with cellular phones," said Anthony Russo, director of the PNT Executive Committee's National Coordination Office. "However, the testing did show that LightSquared signals caused harmful interference to the majority of other tested general purpose GPS receivers. Separate analysis by the Federal Aviation Administration also found interference with a flight safety system designed to warn pilots of approaching terrain."

Mr. Russo said in the statement that the final test report will be sent to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. "Over the next several weeks, the final analysis of the findings will be completed and a final report will be transmitted from NTIA to the FCC," he added.

[<Return to top>](#)

Investment Weekly News, Zamansky & Associates LLC; Zamansky Announces Investigation of Harbinger Capital, 31 December 2011

2011 DEC 31 - (VerticalNews.com) -- Zamansky & Associates LLC announces that it is investigating Harbinger Capital Partners, the hedge fund run by Philip Falcone, who became an overnight billionaire by betting on the collapse on the U.S. housing market. In the last few years, public reports indicate that Harbinger has placed an enormous bet on LightSquared LP, a wireless telecom startup company. LightSquared is running low on cash and its outstanding debt trades at a steep discount.

According to the same reports, the SEC has reportedly sent Falcone and two of his lieutenants Wells Notices, and both the SEC and the U.S. Attorney's Office are investigating their conduct, including Falcone's borrowing \$113 million from his fund to pay his taxes without first notifying his investors and the allegedly preferential treatment of some of Harbinger's investors. Regulators are also looking at whether the firm engaged in market manipulation in its trading of certain debt securities from 2006 to 2008.

To read more click [here](#).

[<Return to top>](#)

Telecompaper Americas, LightSquared releases tests on modified GPS devices, 27 December 2011

US operator LightSquared filed the first set of data from independent testing of precision GPS devices which were modified to coexist with the company's proposed nationwide LTE network. According to the company, the data shows that properly filtered high-precision GPS devices do not suffer any loss of accuracy in the presence of LightSquared's signals. The government has not yet begun the next phase of its testing, which will focus on high-precision devices.

To read more click [here](#).

[<Return to top>](#)

eWEEK, LightSquared Pushes for Immediate FCC Action on Defense Bill, 23 December 2011

When LightSquared, the company that promises to create a national satellite network for Long-Term Evolution data traffic, suddenly sprang into action at the end of December to demand that the Federal Communications Commission confirm its right to use frequencies that interfere with GPS, it was more than just the company's usual aggressive behavior.

It is, in fact, an effort to get the FCC to act on the company's license application in advance of the signing of the Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2012. This bill, which has been approved with strong bipartisan support in both houses of Congress, contains a provision that prohibits the FCC from approving LightSquared's operation if it interferes in any way with the use of GPS by the military.

"Such approval, in view of the recent test results of the LightSquared network's effect on GPS receivers, would be prohibited by our legislation," said Rep. Mike Turner (R-Ohio), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Strategic Forces. "The FCC should take no actions inconsistent with the bipartisan and bicameral position of the Congress that our first goal must be to protect DOD GPS systems."

To read more click [here](#).
<Return to top>

TR Daily, LightSquared FILES ALU TEST RESULTS FOR GPS RECEIVERS, 23 December 2011

LightSquared, Inc., today told the FCC that independent non-government testing of modified Global Positioning System receivers "demonstrate conclusively that high precision receivers can be made fully resilient to LightSquared's adjacent band transmissions while maintaining all of their necessary performance specifications."

In an ex parte filing in International Bureau docket 11-109, LightSquared said that the test results demonstrate that "LightSquared's planned terrestrial deployment is fully compatible with GPS operation, even for the highest precision equipment available on the commercial market. Leading manufacturers have quickly demonstrated that resiliency can be achieved using readily available components which have similar costs and form factors to those that have previously been used by the equipment."

Testing was conducted at an Alcatel-Lucent (ALU) lab in New Jersey.

Referencing different devices, LightSquared said, "In the Hemisphere report, it is demonstrated that the enhanced Hemisphere and Javad antennas provide location accuracy at least equal to that of the unmodified legacy Hemisphere external antenna when paired with a legacy device. Similar results are presented by Manufacturer 1 in its test report. These assessments were also confirmed by an analysis LightSquared performed on position information collected by ALU on the Javad and Topcon devices during the testing process."

<Return to top>

The Wall Street Journal Online, Hedge Fund Chief Falcone Rejects an Offer to Settle by SEC, By Steve Eder And Jean Eaglesham, 23 December 2011

Prominent hedge-fund manager Philip Falcone has rejected a Securities and Exchange Commission settlement offer that would have banned him from the securities industry and essentially ended his career, people familiar with the matter said.

The move by SEC officials to reach a settlement came before an affiliate of Mr. Falcone's firm, Harbinger Capital Partners LLC, disclosed in a securities filing Dec. 9 that he and two senior executives have been warned by the SEC they could face civil-fraud charges.

An SEC spokesman declined to comment. A Harbinger spokesman said "any comment on settlement talks would be inappropriate."

The SEC's push for a multiyear ban on the 49-year-old billionaire from the hedge-fund industry is a sign of how seriously agency officials view alleged misconduct by Mr. Falcone that is now being investigated, people familiar with the matter said.

Mr. Falcone rose to prominence in 2007 with lucrative bets against subprime mortgages, and he is known for both big gains and big losses. The SEC is scrutinizing his hedge-fund business on three fronts, according to regulatory filings.

To read more click [here](#).
<[Return to top](#)>

The Hill, FCC one member away from being out of commission, By Brendan Sasso - 12/23/11 11:59 AM ET

With Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) blocking President Obama's two nominees to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the five-member board is set to begin the new year with the bare minimum of members needed to take official action.

The FCC has been operating with four commissioners since Meredith Attwell Baker resigned in May to join Comcast. Another slot opens up at the end of the month, when Commissioner Michael Copps retires.

In October, Obama nominated Ajit Pai and Jessica Rosenworcel to serve on the commission, but Grassley has promised to place a hold on their nominations if they come up for a vote in the Senate.

The FCC, which regulates television, radio, phones and the Internet, needs the presence of three members for official agency business.

To read more click [here](#).
<[Return to top](#)>

Forbes, Cellphone Manufacturers Solved GPS Interference Problem, 12/22/2011 @ 12:55PM

A question came up as I was completing my story about LightSquared and the GPS industry: According to a government report leaked to Bloomberg and then described in a bare-bones news release from the National Executive Committee for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing, extensive testing of the proposed LightSquared cellular network "found no significant interference with cellular phones."

I called Commerce Dept. spokesman Bill Mosley to find out whether this referred to cellphone voice communications, or the separate GPS function in many phones. Because if LightSquared doesn't interfere with cellphone GPS chips, that would undermine a key argument of the GPS industry. Manufacturers of the popular navigation devices say it is technically and economically impossible to shield them from interference on LightSquared's neighboring frequencies. If that's correct, how did the cellphone manufacturers pull it off?

Mosley declined to answer my question. So I tracked down an engineer with direct knowledge both of the government interference testing and the design of cellphone GPS chips to find out more. He confirmed that cellphone GPS chips were unaffected in the LightSquared tests.

“The radio technology inside cellphones is very different,” he told me, speaking on condition of anonymity mainly because he doesn’t want to get dragged into the contentious fight between Phil Falcone’s LightSquared and practically everybody else in the wireless industry. “The GPS in a cellphone has to deal with interference from the cellphone itself, so there is more filtering.”

To read more click [here](#).
<[Return to top](#)>

Seeking Alpha, Spectrum Brands: Focusing On The Right Metrics, 12/27/2011

I came across Spectrum Brands (SPB) while I was looking into Goodhaven Funds, the new value investment fund created by two former Bruce Berkowitz lieutenants, Larry Pitkowsky and Keith Trauner. While examining the current holdings of Goodhaven what I found most interesting, other than the fact that Larry and Keith have none of the bullishness their former boss has towards the financial sector, is that their largest holding is in Spectrum Brands, a company focused on marketing a variety of consumer products. Their bullishness on the company's future prospects and previous track record of success led me to dig deeper.

The origin of Spectrum can be traced back to Rayovac, a Wisconsin based battery company founded in 1906. Weary of simply marketing batteries, the company went on a debt fueled acquisition binge in the early 2000’s that led to the company branching out into among others, pet, garden and insect control. While the company become more diversified through these acquisitions, it also became weighed down by the large interest payments it had taken on.

Unable to sustain the heavy amount of leverage it was operating under, Spectrum entered Chapter 11 in 2/3/2009 and exited on 8/28/2009, having wiped out the previous equity holders. Today, the company operates in three main segments:

- o Global Batteries
- o Pet Supplies
- o Home and Garden

Through these segments, Spectrum markets and sells a variety of consumer brands such as Rayovac batteries, Remington shavers, George Foreman grills and Hot Shot insect repellent, amongst many others. The products that Spectrum offers are positioned in the “value category” meaning that they function just as well or better than the more “name brand” products but are markedly cheaper. Spectrum believes this is the correct strategy to continue to pursue as the macroeconomic picture is still pointing to depressed consumer spending in the near future. The company traditionally targets top line growth of at or slightly above GDP, with EBITDA at 2-3x GDP.

To read more click [here](#).
<[Return to top](#)>

The Register, LightSquared demands FCC ruling; Patience – and money – running out fast, By Bill Ray, Posted in Wireless, 23rd December 2011 14:05 GMT

LightSquared has filed a petition for Declaratory Ruling with the FCC for confirmation of its right to exist, as it's running out of cash fast and needs a decision.

The company was expecting a decision by the end of the year, but confidence in its plan has been shaken by the selective leaking [1] of test results and ongoing claims that the GPS industry is too big to be put at risk, so now LightSquared is demanding that the FCC state unequivocally that GPS manufacturers have no right to protection, or restitution, from LightSquared's business model.

The problem is that the (weak) GPS signal is right beside that licensed by LightSquared for mobile telephones. The FCC granted LightSquared that licence, including a change of use as the bands were previously reserved for satellite-phones only. The problem is that some GPS kit listens too broadly, and can thus pick up (and be overwhelmed by) the neighbouring signal from LightSquared's new network.

As the company's petition (PDF [2]) explains: "The commercial GPS industry has manufactured, and sold to unsuspecting consumers, unlicensed and poorly designed GPS receivers that 'listen' for radio signals both in the 'RNSS' [GPS] frequency band ... as well as across the adjacent 'MSS' frequency band that is not intended for GPS use, and in which LightSquared is licensed".

LightSquared has already agreed to abandon its upper frequency (which is right next to the GPS bands) and has reduced the transmission power in the lower band as well as edging away to reduce leakage. It has also financed the development of filters which it claims would allow any GPS kit to coexist with the LightSquared network for a few dollars (once fitted).

To read more click [here](#).
<Return to top>

POB Online, JAVAD Releases White Paper on “The Real Interference Issue;” Issues Technical Challenge, December 23, 2011

In response to recently released test results and ensuing discussion over the proposed LightSquared broadband network, JAVAD GNSS Inc. has released a white paper titled, “ The Real Interference Issue: Political Noise.” Written by Javad Ashjaee, the company’s president and CEO, the paper says the interference problems documented through test results are “entirely caused by poor design of GPS receivers.”

“The GPS interference issue is a perfect example of how Washington is allowing politics to influence a technical debate,” the paper states. “Opponents of LightSquared are trying to deal with the GPS interference issue by employing armies of lawyers and lobbyists who either don’t understand the scientific facts or are lying about them. Instead, it would be much better for those who are making much of the noise about LightSquared, to spend money on research and development to help solve the problem.”

To read more click [here](#).
<Return to top>

GPS World, Statement by Javad Ashjaee on PNT Advisory Board LightSquared Report, December 20, 2011 By: Javad Ashjaee

According to the official test results, 300 million inexpensive GPS receivers in cell phones do not get affected by LightSquared, but the very expensive military GPS receivers that are supposed to be battle hardened do!

The irony is that the four-star generals keep their heads up and walk like they did not hear it! And they blame LightSquared!

To read more click [here](#).

[<Return to top>](#)

GPS World, Freemium Model for in-Vehicle LBS, December 20, 2011 By: Janice Partyka, December 2011

Cloud-based infotainment, more tightly integrated apps, and more personalized offerings will change the in-vehicle mobile experience. Interfaces will morph towards combinations of heads-up displays and voice. These were some of the conclusions from my December 1 webinar “Car as a Mobile LBS Device,” with panelists from Ford, OnStar, Pioneer and TomTom. How in-vehicle apps will be monetized is an open question. When polled, almost half of the webinar audience believed a “freemium” model will prevail. Freemium models work by offering a product or service free of charge while charging a premium for advanced features.

Close to a third of the webinar participants believed that LBS apps will come as “standard equipment” on new vehicles. Many see mobile advertising as adding a significant revenue stream if the advertising is truly contextual and continues to serve up offerings that are useful to a consumer. Obtaining contextual marketing data about consumers must be done with prudence, but more about that later. The carriers and service providers such as Facebook and Google stand to make the most money from in-vehicle apps. To listen to the “Car as a Mobile LBS Device” webinar with panelists from Ford, OnStar, Pioneer and TomTom, follow this link.

Carrier Low IQ. Mobile contextual advertising needs consumer behavior data to work. The behavior data are highly sought because of their value to advertisers. If you haven’t been paying attention, Carrier IQ allegedly has been illegally and secretly recording individual cell-phone user behavior, including location data, across more than 140 million handsets. Carrier IQ maintains that its services count and measure operational information and do not record keystrokes or provide tracking tools.

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[<Return to top>](#)

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