

not been otherwise identified in this Notice and who need to have access to the records in order to perform their activity.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORAGE OF RECORDS:

The information pertaining to the CRM includes electronic records, files, data, records, and may include audio recordings of calls. Records are maintained in secure, limited access areas. Physical entry by unauthorized persons is restricted through use of locks, passwords, and other security measures. Both USAC and its contractors will jointly manage the electronic data housed at USAC and contractors will have access to the data at their locations.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETRIEVAL OF RECORDS:

Information in the CRM system of records may be retrieved by various identifiers, including, but not limited to the individual's name or identification number. USAC employees and contractors information can also be retrieved through identifiers including first or last name, title, email address, and username.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETENTION AND DISPOSAL OF RECORDS:

Data from USF programs contained in the CRM system are maintained and disposed of in accordance with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Records Schedule DAA-0173-2017-0001. ACP records are maintained and disposed of in accordance with NARA Records Schedule DAA-0173-2021-0022, Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB Program)/Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Records related to the Connected Care Pilot Program/COVID-19 Telehealth Program are maintained and disposed of in accordance with NARA Records Schedule DAA-0173-2020-0006.

ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND PHYSICAL SAFEGUARDS:

The electronic records, data, and files are maintained in the FCC and the USAC computer network databases, which are protected by the FCC's and USAC's privacy safeguards, a comprehensive and dynamic set of IT safety and security protocols and features that are designed to meet all Federal IT privacy standards, including those required by OMB, the National Institute of Standard and Technology (NIST) and the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA). In addition, access to the electronic files is restricted to

authorized USAC and contractors' supervisors and staff, to the FCC's supervisors and staff in WCB, and to the IT contractors who maintain these computer databases. Other FCC employees and contractors may be granted access only on a "need-to-know" basis. In addition, data in USAC's network servers which are accessible by USAC's contractors will be routinely backed-up. The servers will be stored in secured environments to protect the data.

The paper documents and files are maintained in file cabinets in USAC and the contractors' office suites. The file cabinets are locked when not in use and at the end of the business day. Access to these files is restricted to authorized USAC and its contractors' staffs.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

Individuals wishing to request access to and/or amendment of records about themselves should follow the Notification Procedures below.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

Individuals wishing to request an amendment of records about themselves should follow the Notification Procedures below.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:

Individuals wishing to determine whether this system of records contains information about themselves may do so by writing Federal Communications Commission (FCC), 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554, or to privacy@fcc.gov. Individuals requesting access must also comply with the FCC's Privacy Act regulations regarding verification of identity to gain access to the records (47 CFR part 0, subpart E).

EXEMPTIONS PROMULGATED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

HISTORY:

91 FR 9272 (Feb. 25, 2026).

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026-21314 Filed 10-16-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[GN Docket No. 25-59; DA 26-1076; FR ID 372889]

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Seeks Comment on Proposed Rebate Categories and Amounts for Radio Altimeter Retrofits To Support the Upper C-band Transition

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice; solicitation of comments.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (Bureau) invites interested parties to comment on proposed categories, dollar amounts, and any other relevant information or procedures in connection with rebates to support retrofits of radio altimeters mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to facilitate the introduction of terrestrial wireless services in the Upper C-band. In *Upper C-band (3.98-4.2 GHz); Expanding Flexible Use of the 3.7 to 4.2 GHz Band*, GN Docket Nos. 25-59 and 18-122, Report and Order, Order of Proposed Modification, and Order on Reconsideration, FCC 26-46 (July 24, 2026) (*Upper C-band R&O*), the Commission established that new 3.7 GHz Service licensees will provide rebates to defined classes of eligible aircraft owners and operators to facilitate their compliance with the FAA's radio altimeter retrofit requirements and directed the Bureau to develop and seek public comment on its proposed rebate categories, dollar amounts, and other relevant procedures for administering the rebates.

DATES: Comments are due on or before October 26, 2026; reply comments are due on or before November 16, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by GN Docket No. 25-59, by any of the following methods:

■ *Federal Communications Commission's Website:* <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/standard>.

Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

■ *People with Disabilities:* Contact the FCC to request reasonable accommodations (accessible format documents, sign language interpreters, CART, etc.) by email: FCC504@fcc.gov or phone: 202-418-0530.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew McArdell, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at Andrew.McArdell@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's

document (*Public Notice*), in GN Docket No. 25–59, DA 26–1076, released on October 5, 2026. The *Public Notice* includes the following appendix: Appendix A, *Proposed Radio Altimeter Rebate Categories and Amounts*. The complete text of this document, including the appendix, is available on the Commission's website at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-1076A1.pdf>, or by using the search function for GN Docket No. 25–59 on the Commission's ECFS web page at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs>.

Ex Parte Rules. This proceeding shall be treated as a “permit but-disclose” proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules. Persons making *ex parte* presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the *ex parte* presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter's written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during *ex parte* meetings are deemed to be written *ex parte* presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b). In proceedings governed by rule 1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written *ex parte* presentations and memoranda summarizing oral *ex parte* presentations, and all attachments thereto, must be filed through the electronic comment filing system available for that proceeding, and must be filed in their native format (*e.g.*, .doc, .xml, .ppt, searchable .pdf). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.

Synopsis

With this Public Notice, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (Bureau)

invites interested parties to comment on proposed categories, dollar amounts, and any other relevant information or procedures in connection with rebates to support retrofits of radio altimeters mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to facilitate the introduction of terrestrial wireless services in the Upper C-band. The adjacent 4.2–4.4 GHz band is allocated for the operation of radio altimeters, which are aeronautical safety systems primarily used at altitudes less than 2,500 feet above ground level to measure aircraft height above terrain and obstacles in all phases of flight. In adopting the *Upper C-band R&O*, 91 FR 48700, July 31, 2026, the Commission worked in close coordination with a parallel FAA rulemaking to ensure a successful coexistence environment between new wireless operations and neighboring radio altimeters by increasing radio altimeters' robustness and signal rejection capabilities through retrofits. To ensure that new Upper C-band licensees may deploy on a predictable timeline aligned with the FAA's radio altimeter retrofit schedule, the *Upper C-band R&O* established that new 3.7 GHz Service licensees will, as a condition of their licenses, fund rebates to facilitate compliance with the FAA's retrofit requirements by defined classes of eligible aircraft owners and operators.

In deciding to facilitate compliance with the FAA's requirements in this manner, the Commission specifically noted that the radio altimeters subject to the retrofit are in the adjacent band, that they are not being relocated, and that their Commission authorizations are not being modified, putting them in a distinct posture as compared with in-band incumbents. Accordingly, and considering the large scope of potential claims for rebates with accompanying administrative burdens and operational costs, the Commission declined to adopt an actual cost reimbursement framework, finding it neither appropriate nor practicable in this context. Instead, the Commission adopted a rebate structure that will establish set amounts for different categories of aircraft based on the number of radio altimeters involved in each upgrade, the general level of efforts involved in each type of retrofit, and other reasonable and necessary factors involved in accomplishing each category of retrofit, including timing considerations such as the relevant FAA deadline for compliance. The Commission explained that this rebate structure was intended to streamline the overall process to make support for the

retrofits available more quickly and to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse. The rebate structure is also meant to minimize the operational costs of administering the rebates and help to ensure that these adjacent band stakeholders are able to meet the applicable retrofit deadlines imposed by the FAA. With these same factors in mind, the Commission also specified defined classes of eligible aircraft, as well as aircraft owners and operators, who must be subject to the FAA deadlines and operate in the airspace of the contiguous United States in order to qualify for the rebates. The Commission also determined that it would not be in the public interest to offer rebates to foreign-registered aircraft operators and owners given the fluid and itinerant nature of their operations in the airspace of the contiguous United States, and determined that other entities and radio altimeter equipment would not be eligible for rebates. The Commission delegated authority to the Bureau to implement the rebate structure adopted in the *Upper C-band R&O*.

While the record to date reflects limited economic information relating to upgraded radio altimeters, we recognize that commenters and FAA have developed estimates in part based on experience with existing radio altimeter models. Based on these estimates, as well as more refined technical assistance provided by FAA subsequent to the completion of the *FAA Final Rule*, Appendix A hereto proposes draft categories and rebate amounts upon the type of aircraft, the number of radio altimeters each aircraft type has, and the relative level of effort involved in retrofitting such aircraft. Each aircraft category and corresponding rebate amount is predicated on certain assumptions, namely that the effort needed to upgrade an existing radio altimeter design will be less time- and resource-intensive than the acquisition and installation of an entirely new design. These draft rebate amounts also anticipate different timing and scheduling considerations for those entities that must comply with the FAA's first retrofit deadline in late 2030, as compared to those that must meet the second retrofit deadline in 2034. We seek comment on these draft rebate categories and dollar amounts, as well as the assumptions and methodology underlying these proposals. Given the lack of detailed supporting data in the current record, commenters recommending any adjustments are strongly encouraged to specify those changes in detail and provide supporting data,

documentation, and other record support for their recommendations.

Finally, we also seek comment on any other requirements or guidance the Bureau can consider in terms of relevant information, documentation, or procedures that will be helpful to eligible aircraft owners and operators and enable the Upper C-band Clearinghouse to equitably and expeditiously administer the rebates. For example, what records or other documentation (such as maintenance logs) would be available across different aircraft categories that would sufficiently establish that the FAA-mandated retrofits have been completed by the relevant deadline and could serve as support for a rebate claim filed with the Upper C-band Clearinghouse? Should aircraft owners and operators be advised to provide any additional detail in such records reflecting, for example, the number of radio altimeters per aircraft, type of retrofit work (*i.e.*, upgrade of an existing radio altimeter design, or installation of an entirely new design), and date of retrofit completion for each type of aircraft? What other documentation might supplement those records or serve as an alternative to achieve the same goals, such as detailed certifications by the eligible aircraft owner and operator? What information from other sources could be used to validate a claim (for example, the FAA maintains records regarding aircraft owner information associated with aircraft registrations, technical standard order authorizations for radio altimeters, and design approvals)? Commenters should address any documentation best practices that they suggest would both provide appropriate support for any rebate claim and enable the Upper C-band Clearinghouse to prevent any fraud, waste, or abuse in administering the rebates. Our intent in seeking comment on these matters is not to unduly constrain the Upper C-band Clearinghouse in developing any relevant claims processing procedures, but rather to develop a factual record and provide guidance to all stakeholders that will facilitate and expedite the administration of these rebates.

Consistent with the *Upper C-band R&O*, the Bureau will issue a public notice finalizing the rebate categories and amounts, as well as any other requirements and guidance, as soon as feasible.

Federal Communications Commission.

Amy Brett,

Chief of Staff, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

[FR Doc. 2026-21280 Filed 10-16-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[FR ID 372593]

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice of a modified system of records.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC, Commission, or Agency) proposes to modify an existing system of records, FCC/CGB-4, internet-based Telecommunications Relay Service-User Registration Database (ITRS-URD) Program, subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. This action is necessary to meet the requirements of the Privacy Act to publish in the **Federal Register** notice of the existence and character of records maintained by the agency. The ITRS-URD's system of records contains personally identifiable information (PII) that is collected, used, stored, and maintained to support the administration, management, operations, and functions of the ITRS programs. The ITRS-URD, which is administered by a third party under contract with the FCC, is a database registration system that provides a necessary interface for multiple ITRS services, which include, but are not limited to Video Relay Service (VRS) and internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS). These services are available to individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities, who are eligible under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and who register to participate in a TRS program. This modification updates the Categories of Records Covered by the System, adds a new routine use, and updates and revises language in one existing routine use.

DATES: This modified system of records will become effective on October 19, 2026. Written comments on the routine uses are due by November 18, 2026. The new or revised routine uses in this action will become effective on November 18, 2026 unless comments are received that require a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Shana Yates, FCC, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554, care of the Office of General Counsel, Privacy Team; or to *privacy@fcc.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: FCC Office of General Counsel, Privacy Team, at *privacy@fcc.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice serves to update and modify FCC/CGB-4 to make various necessary changes and updates, including modification of the Categories of Records Covered by the System, the addition of a new routine use, and the revision of one existing routine use to provide more detail. The substantive changes and modifications to the previously published version of the FCC/CGB-4 system of records include:

1. Modifying the language in the Categories of Records in the System to reflect the collection and maintenance of information regarding ITRS program providers and suspension and debarment history and current status of program providers;

2. Updating and/or revising language in the following routine use (listed by the routine use number provided in this notice): (2) Prevention of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Disclosure; and

3. Adding one new routine use (listed by the routine use number provided in this notice): (4) Suspension and Debarment Disclosure.

SYSTEM NAME AND NUMBER:

FCC/CGB-4, internet-based Telecommunications Relay Service-User Registration Database (ITRS-URD).

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

Unclassified.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB), FCC, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S):

CGB, FCC, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

47 U.S.C. 141–154, 225, 255, 303(r), 616, and 620.

PURPOSE(S) OF THE SYSTEM:

This system collects and maintains:

1. Information that is used to determine whether an individual who is applying for a TRS program is eligible to register for the program;

2. Information that the ITRS-URD administrator uses to determine whether information with respect to registered users already in the ITRS-URD is correct and complete;

3. Information that the ITRS-URD administrator uses or will use in a system for automated validation of the registration information that has been submitted and ensure that the authorized VRS and IP CTS providers are unable to register individuals who do not pass the identification verification check conducted through the ITRS-URD;