

Radio Band Width Visualized

WEALTHY COUNTRIES RACE TO GET TO MORE PEOPLE. WHILE THE REST

The U.S. Federal Communications Commission recently announced a 10-year plan to improve and expand the country's broadband infrastructure (see "Broadband Plan Review," p. tk). The initiative is largely in response to data showing that the United States is lagging behind other developed nations like Korea, Japan, and the Scandinavian countries, which—as the graph at right reveals—have significantly faster connections and higher rates of broadband

penetration. Korea is the global pacesetter, with the latest data from Internet connection testing firm Ookla showing a blisteringly fast average download speed of over 30 megabits per second—three times as fast as typical speeds in the United States. While some critics question

whether it's useful to compare the performance of small, dense countries like Japan and Korea with a larger, more heterogeneous population spread out over a larger area like the U.S. (or China for that matter), by almost any measure the richest, most powerful country in the

world is in the middle of the pack in broadband—and is now prepared to spend billions to improve its position.

- Matt Mahoney

Information graphic by TOMMY McCALL and MATTMAHONEY

Note: 1121,5 MHz: Air Traffic Control, 2901-902, 930-931,940-941 MHz SMS, 929-930 MHz Paging, 3122,76 MHz:GPS,41390*1395 MHZ, 1432-1435 MHz: 4G and/or Smart Grid applications, 51575,42 MHz: GPS, 61710-1755 MHz: AWS-1, PPCS Mobile Phone Bands, 82100-2155 MHz: AWS-2, 92305-2320 MHz, 2345-2360 Mobile Broadband, 10Industrial, Scientific, and Medical (ISM) but also unlicensed devices such as microwaves, cordless phones, and Bluetooth

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