

## Opening remarks for ITS webinar - December 7, 2023

### Optimizing Spectrum Auctions

- We are privileged to have Geoffrey Myers, a distinguished figure in regulatory economics and visiting professor of practice at the London School of Economics, with us today. With over 30 years of experience, in particular at Ofcom, the UK's communications regulator, Geoffrey has been praised as a pioneer in spectrum auctions by Nobel Laureate Paul Milgrom.
- His new, open-access book - Spectrum Auctions: Designing markets to benefit the public, industry and the economy - critically examines spectrum auctions, shedding light on global successes, the role of analytical tools in policy-making, and the integration of expert advice in addressing complex spectrum policy issues.
- **This webinar gains added significance following Canada's 3800 spectrum auction.** The auction's favorable outcome helps close a regulatory performance gap with peer nations through more cost-efficient assignment of 5G spectrum and sets the stage for national operators to roll out 5G across the country, marking a significant advancement in connectivity and the lives of Canadians.
- **Spectrum policy has transcended its niche in telecom circles to become a central social and economic policy issue.** Its impact extends beyond traditional economic goals, influencing areas such as food security, healthcare, and climate change. Policymakers must now consider spectrum policy as a key driver in shaping our digital future, making it essential for a broader audience beyond telecom experts.
- **The varied experiences of countries such as the UK, Australia, South Korea, and Canada offer valuable lessons.** These insights are crucial in understanding how spectrum policy can support both traditional economic objectives and broader societal challenges. We are delighted to have Geoffrey here to guide us through the complex, vital topic.