

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: CBRS CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL INSTALLER TRAINING PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS



1. Introduction and Background of the CBRS Band and CPI Requirement and Training Program

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has authorized through Part 96 of the Federal Communications Telecommunications Code (Title 47, Chapter 1, Subchapter D, Part 96 as shown in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=2dd346ae3b51f2866ab6fb907e755526&mc=true&r=PART&n=pt47.5.96>) the creation of a new offering of shared radio frequency spectrum between 3550-3700 MHz. This spectrum is referred to as the Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS).

This spectrum will be offered for a wide variety of uses, including for mobile and cellular communications and fixed wireless solutions, as well as anticipated vertical uses such as in stadium or venue locations, energy and utility systems and meters, hospitals and medical centers, retail and restaurant use, business services, private networks, IoT, and many more uses.

These uses will likely evolve as the Band becomes viable. Further, the CBRS rules are technology agnostic meaning many technologies, new and present can be used within the spectrum. This flexibility of uses and technologies is expected to spawn a diversity of innovation and offerings.

CBRS is a unique three-tiered spectrum offered in the United States involving differing priorities and operating in the same shared spectrum. This cooperative use maximizes the use of spectrum, a valuable and limited national resource.

Per the FCC, certain Incumbent users are protected including certain of the United States Navy's radar systems, Fixed Satellite Services (FSS), and Grandfathered Wireless Broadband Services Licensees (GWBLs). GWBLs are operators who utilized the spectrum previously and registered with the FCC.

In addition, there are two types of spectrum permissions which allow use of the spectrum by any qualified user: a) Priority Access Licenses (PALs) who purchase at auction the preferred right to use certain spectrum in designated geographic regions and once granted, are protected from interference from GAA, and b) General Authorized Access (GAA) users who may utilize designated spectrum in 3650-3700 MHz, much like unlicensed use today, and may also use any of the spectrum designated by or for PAL users in 3550-3650 MHz which is not being used.

Since higher tier users must be protected from lower tier interference and each tier of use must vie for access and spectrum allocation, a new form of coordination was created to protect the operation of the Band. This new spectrum management approach is known as the Spectrum Access System or SAS. SASs are commercial entities who must be certified by the FCC and are authorized to assess Band use and protect Incumbent users. They are also charged with spectrum allocation and providing spectrum grants to both PAL and GAA users under rules provided by the FCC and standards created by WInnForum.

Some of the CBSD (Citizen's Band Services Devices) equipment used must be installed and certified by a group of trained and credentialed persons known as Certified Professional Installers (CPIs). CPIs hold both a legal and professional obligation to provide the SAS with critical information about the equipment

they install, certain installation details, and to assure that the equipment is properly installed pursuant to the FCC requirements and WinnForum Standards. CPIs sign-off on required installations.

2. Background of WinnForum and CPI Training Curriculum:

WinnForum is non-profit industry association operating as a multi-stakeholder group as defined by the FCC in the Report and Orders and subsequent Part 96 to create the technical rules and industry standardized interfaces for the Band. WinnForum has created an outline of curriculum areas for the training and certification of CPIs. Within that curriculum are mandatory training topics from Part 96 rules and/or WinnForum Standards; as well as optional industry training offerings which can vary based on the specific industry objectives. This might be such things as vendor or SAS specific information or other information that is not required by Part 96 or WinnForum Standards. For example, it may provide information on specific vendor equipment, SAS interface procedures, graphical user interfaces, and Web based portals or tools, or special procedures by industry stakeholders.

3. Request for Proposals to become an Accredited Training Program Administrator for CPIs:

WinnForum is seeking entities or persons to become accredited as CPI Training Program Administrators in accordance with all the requirements and specifications set-forth in WinnForum document: [WINNF-TS-0247-V1.0.0](#) known as the CPI Accreditation Standard.

WinnForum, as the Accrediting Body overseeing CPI Training Program Administrators, seeks complete proposals to create an advanced CPI Training Program that fully incorporate all the mandatory curriculum requirements as well as the ability to offer training on optional industry requested topics.

Each applicant seeking to become an accredited trainer for CPI's should include in its response all mandatory curriculum items and a methodology for training, reviewing, and examining and certifying CPIs.

In addition, WinnForum seeks to obtain in the content of the response to this RFP, relevant testing methods, and examination questions consistent with the curriculum that can be utilized in an examination pool to test and certify CPIs. Along with these training, testing and certifying responsibilities, the Accredited Training Program Administrator will have certain legal, record keeping, communications, review of conduct, investigation, and discipline responsibilities relative to CPIs. And, they may have additional requirements to maintain accreditation as given in WINNF-TS-0247-V1.0.0.

Training Entities must work with the Accrediting Body (WinnForum) to keep all students and certificated CPIs trained by them cognizant of current rules, including any changes.

A procedure should be included in the RFP indicating how the Training Entities will maintain current regulatory and standards/protocol information current for all trained CPIs on an ongoing basis and how to retrain or recertify CPIs as needed as regulations or standards are changed or updated.

4. Statement of Need

WinnForum is seeking qualified applicants to become Accredited CPI Training Program Administrators within all of the WinnForum specification and requirements given in: WINNF-TS-0247-V1.0.0 which is the

leading document for all submissions to this RFP. It should be the guiding document for all submissions related to this RFP and should reflect a complete adoption of the principles and requirements.

5. Scope of Work to be Included in the Proposal:

This RFP seeks applicants to submit a complete written, understandable and verifiable proposal to create a working training program consistent with: WINNF-TS-0247-V1.0.0. The plan should also outline clearly how the applicant would examine CPIs in a consistent and fair manner.

The applicant must also provide a clear statement of how it will:

- a) Create a curriculum with all required content;
- b) Create an offering plan that is fair and open to all requesting CPI applicants (CPI trainees);
- c) Create an offering that can be completed in a reasonable period (suggested is no more than two business days of training, preferably one);
- d) Create an offering that shows how records will be entered and maintained and stored;
- e) Create an offering that includes methodology and content for creation of examination with security measures protecting the questions and method-practice. Provide for the review, notification and certification of CPIs based on the requirements and examination;
- f) Create an offering that includes methodology and practices addressing issues of inquiry, review, investigation, and discipline if necessary;
- g) Create a methodology and practice of updating CPI trainees certified by the training organization on new or updated regulations, standards and protocols; and, industry needs;
- h) Create a method and practice for customizing training offerings to include all of the above, but add industry, vendor or subject specific optional focus (e.g., a specific SAS wishes the training organization to train in their procedures or training inclusive of product vendors information);
- i) Maintain relationship with accredited Root of Trust providers for all required functions including protection of any certificates required from a Certificate Authority;
- j) Communicate and maintain a relationship for all required functions with SASs;
- k) Work as required with the Accrediting Body;
- l) Create a method and practice for updating all curriculum and examination and other training requirements as needed; and,
- m) Demonstrate that they have the right to conduct business and are in compliance with all relevant local, state, and Federal laws and regulations. A Training Program Administrator shall demonstrate the capacity to provide training through a compliant training program.

All the above should be created in a readable format, such as Microsoft Word or Adobe .pdf. Applicants should provide up-to-date contact information and all information required in Section 6.2 of WINNF-TS-0247-V1.0.0.

6. Requested Submission:

Submissions should include a signed formal offer in response to this RFP and a request to be accredited by WinnForum. All RFP material should be sent to:

Mr. Lee Pucker, Chief Executive Officer
Wireless Innovation Forum (WInnForum)
Lee.Pucker@WirelessInnovation.org

Information about WInnForum can be seen at: <http://www.winnforum.org> Questions and comments about the RFP procedure, requirements, and other topics can be directed to Mr. Pucker at the above email address or by calling: [604-828-9846](tel:604-828-9846).

7. Requirements of Submitting Entities:

All RFP submissions require that the applicant parties to be accredited have the requirements given in WINNF-TS-0247-V1.0.0 to perform the duties required at the time of training and until or unless the business declares to the Accrediting Body that it is no longer seeking to be an accredited training body and provides a copy or returns all information relative to CPI records.

Applicants may be required from time-to-time to re-accredit. Such requirements for accreditation may change and are subject to WInnForum requirements. Accredited entities may be terminated for cause by WInnForum as given in WINNF-TS-0247-V1.0.0. At any time as such accreditation may be terminated, all records must be returned or provided in copy to WInnForum immediately. All submissions should be signed and dated by the responsible entities.

8. Compensation and Business Operations:

Entities seeking RFP Accreditation for CPI Training with WInnForum may provide training for no-cost or provide for reasonable fees and costs. It is understood that the training, examination, updates, and review/discipline requirements (and all other given requirements) have substantial investment and costs.

It is expected that value to the applying entity upon accreditation will include the right to offer validated accredited training courses in CPI certification along with the requisite examination and updates. It is further expected that demand may grow for CBRS Band equipment and that the corollary demand for CPI training and certification will likewise grow.

To the extent reasonable, entities approved to offer CPI training (accredited entities) will have the right to reasonably charge for such services and add-on services such as industry specific training noted herein.

Only CPI training entities accredited by WInnForum shall be allowed to bear the authorization approval in advertising, marketing and communications. And, only CPIs trained by accredited entities shall be authorized as WInnForum accredited CPIs.

No compensation, reimbursement or other remuneration shall come from WInnForum or any related entity. All costs of the RFP, training program, accreditation, examination and all other required operations costs are borne by the respective applicants.

9. Fees:

Training Entity accreditation shall be made available free of charge for WInnForum members in good standing. Non-members shall be charged an administrative fee of \$2,000 per year.

10. Timing for Submissions and Assessments:



Initial submissions for Round 1 of CPI Training Program Administrator accreditation are requested by no later than January 19, 2018. Subsequent submissions will be accepted on a rolling basis and are invited, but will be in subsequent rounds of approval.

Organizations will be notified of acceptance within a reasonable period after submission and review by WInnForum. If there is an issue with their proposal, they will be given an opportunity to revise their proposal and resubmit. Successful applicants will be asked to sign a CPI Training Entity agreement in order to receive their accreditation as an Accredited CBRS CPI Training Entity of WInnForum.

[Disclaimers: All information contained in this RFP is subject to change or alteration. Any and all offerings herein are also subject to termination or cancellation. Use of the WInnForum name, logo, and accreditation authorization are only provided to those entities ultimately accredited by WInnForum and as noted above. All entities filing in response to this RFP must do so in good faith.]

Thank you for your response to this RFP.