

Andrew CLEGG

Program Director

Enhancing Access to the Radio Spectrum (EARS)
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



Thursday, January 24, 2013

258 Fitzpatrick Hall, 11:00 a.m.

[coffee & light snacks, 10:30 a.m.]

WIRELESS RESEARCH in the Context of Domestic SPECTRUM Initiatives

For many years, regulators, politicians, and innovators have continuously hoped for dramatic improvements in spectrum access to allow a dramatic increase in spectrum availability for mobile broadband, public safety, and a myriad of other bandwidth-consuming devices. So far, no such dramatic transition has occurred, and most “new” spectrum is the mundane result of complicated and expensive reallocations, repurposing, and relocations. The most promising new spectrum access paradigm—dynamic spectrum access—has failed to materialize on a grand scale, mostly because of a general “not-in-my-backyard” fear among spectrum incumbents.

Recently, several new developments have given renewed urgency to discovering better and more efficient ways to use the radio spectrum. While these initiatives generally focus on relatively near-term solutions, many of them call for increased investment in wireless research to help alleviate the growing demand for spectrum bandwidth. Partly in response to this call, NSF established the Enhancing Access to the Radio Spectrum (EARS) program, whose single purpose is to fund research that can improve the efficiency with which radio spectrum is used and/or improve access to the radio spectrum by traditionally underserved populations, such as rural communities.

The purpose of this presentation is to examine some of the most recent initiatives and how they are shaping (but not constraining!) promising research avenues in the wireless domain. It will also summarize what we are learning about wireless research and its intersection with current economics and public policy issues. On a related and more practical note, opportunities for funding under the EARS program will also be discussed.

Andrew Clegg is the program director for the Enhancing Access to the Radio Spectrum (EARS) program at the National Science Foundation (NSF). He received a bachelor’s degree in physics and astronomy with highest distinction from the University of Virginia in 1985, and a master’s and doctorate in radio astronomy and electrical engineering from Cornell University in 1989 and 1991, respectively. From 1991–1995, he was with the Remote Sensing Division at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC. From 1995–1997, he was a senior engineer with Comsearch and from 1997–2003 he was a senior engineer, senior manager, and lead member of technical staff with BellSouth/Cingular Wireless in Atlanta. He joined NSF in 2003, where he has previously served as program manager for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and for the Advanced Technologies and Instrumentation program.

Clegg has served two terms as president of the National Spectrum Managers Association, and is presently chairman of the U.S. Working Party 7D of the International Telecommunication Union. He is the coinventor on four patents in the field of wireless telecommunications, creator of the SpectrumWiki.com website, and an Extra Class amateur radio operator (W4JE).

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