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Four bids in 2.6GHz band sale so far

NO NAMES: : The deadline for filing an application is tomorrow. Applicants are required to post a NT\$1 billion bond and pay a NT\$1 million review fee

By Shelley Shan / Staff reporter

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The National Communications Commission yesterday said that it has received applications from four telecoms interested in bidding for the 2.6 gigahertz (GHz) frequency band.

The public tender for frequencies in the band between 2.5GHz and 2.6GHz is scheduled to open next month. Bidding rules say carriers have to file their applications before tomorrow, post a NT\$1 billion (US\$30.52 million) bond and pay a NT\$1 million application review fee.

The list of qualified bidders is scheduled to be released by the end of this month or the beginning of next month, the commission said.

While it confirmed receiving four applications, it said it would only reveal the names tomorrow.

An industry source has told the *Taipei Times* that Chunghwa Telecom Co, Taiwan Mobile Co, Far EasTone Telecommunication Co and Asia-Pacific Telecom have submitted applications.

The commission has said that the auction reserve price for the band between 2.5GHz and 2.6GHz was set at NT\$14.4 billion.

However, the Executive Yuan has said in its budget plan that the auction is expected to add NT\$25 billion to the Treasury.

Several industry experts have said that the auction would cost the carriers between NT\$25 billion and NT\$30 billion because the frequency bands would be mainly used to enlarge their service capacity.

The commission also approved the Food and Drug Administration's application for a specific hotline for the public to ask questions or report about food and drug safety matters.

Commission spokesperson Yu Hsiao-cheng (虞孝成) said the public would be able to call 1919 for questions about food and drug safety, but did not give a starting date.

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