A new study released by Wi-Fi Forward quantifies what innovators have known all along... unlicensed spectrum makes networks better, unleashes new technologies and contributes billions to the U.S. economy.

The Question:
How does unlicensed spectrum support the U.S. economy?

Gross Domestic Product
Sales of technologies, services and applications that run on unlicensed spectrum contribute directly to economic growth.

Economic Surplus
Use of technologies powered by unlicensed spectrum generates additional value to the U.S. economy.

The Findings:

The Benefit to the GDP
- Wi-Fi offloading contributed $12.12 billion to the GDP in 2013.
- Wi-Fi enabled products generated revenue for the US of $2.166 billion to the GDP last year.
- Bluetooth, Z-Wave, and Wireless-HART enabled products generated revenue for the US of $130.83 billion.
- $6.7 billion in GDP contributions.

Creation of Economic Surplus
- Wi-Fi offloading generated a total economic surplus of $12.662 billion last year.
- Wi-Fi only tablet sales contributed $42.872 billion in economic surplus value.
- RFID use generated a total surplus of $130.83 billion.
- The benefits, 6,000+ sprees associated with Wi-Fi enabled homes represent a total economic surplus of $36 billion.
- $222 billion in value to the economy.

The Conclusions:
How much value does unlicensed spectrum hold to the U.S. economy?

- Wi-Fi increases the value of wireline broadband and makes cellular data service faster and cheaper.
- The unlicensed spectrum used for Wi-Fi are a platform for innovative services and new technologies.
- Unlicensed spectrum supports the launch of innovative business models.

Wi-Fi Forward