

## CellAntenna Files RF Jamming Action Against FCC

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CellAntenna Corp. has filed an action in the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Florida challenging a ruling by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to prohibit the use of cellular and radio frequency jamming equipment by state and local governments, the company said Wednesday.

CellAntenna is asking the U.S. District Court to rule on whether the FCC can ban the use of radio frequency jamming equipment by state and local law enforcement agencies, according to filed documents.

The FCC's current interpretation of the Federal Communications Act (FCA) of 1934 prohibits state and local officials from having access to the technology. CellAntenna said the ruling conflicts with public interest and puts lives in jeopardy.

CellAntenna chief executive officer Howard Melamed argues the lives of first responders and the public are at risk in the event of a terrorist attack when using a remote controlled improvised explosive device. Radio frequency jamming equipment obstructs radio and cellular frequencies and prevents a device from receiving signals.

Pushing the government to intervene, Melamed said "local and state bomb squads and local agencies should have the ability to jam cellular communication signal in the event of a terrorist attacks and criminal activity."

Melamed said insurgent groups in Iraq and terrorist cells abroad have turned to cellular-triggered explosives as a means of attacking civilian and military targets. "The Madrid bombers used [cell](#) phones, and there is talk of these remote triggering devices being used in London and Bali," he said.

Requests for the device are coming in from state and local government agency bomb squads and "we can't sell it to them." From studies of the Homeland Security, Melamed said, "we think the FCC has overstepped its boundaries and they should not be involved in weapons there to protect the public."

Sales of CellAntenna's jamming-device to federal government agencies brings in less than "one tenth of one percent" of the company's approximate \$7 million in annual revenue. Melamed estimates the fight to overturn the FCC's decision will cost between \$20,000 and \$50,000.