

# Can I use Meshtastic or MeshCore for commercial purposes?

The short answer: yes, with some limitations. Both platforms are open source with licenses that permit commercial use, and the ISM band spectrum they operate on allows commercial activity. Here's what you need to know.

## Software License Considerations

**Meshtastic firmware** is licensed under the GNU General Public License v3 (GPLv3). Commercial use is permitted, but:

- If you modify the firmware and distribute it (to customers, as a product), you must release your modifications as GPLv3 as well
- You cannot make the firmware proprietary or closed-source while distributing it
- Using Meshtastic firmware as-is without modification carries minimal GPL obligations

**MeshCore firmware** has a more restrictive license. Check the current license in the MeshCore GitHub repository before commercial deployment - license terms can change between versions.

## FCC Part 15 and Commercial Use

FCC Part 15 (the ISM band rules) explicitly permits commercial use. There is no requirement to be a non-profit or individual user. Commercial enterprises can operate LoRa mesh networks on 902-928 MHz under Part 15 rules, subject to the same power limits and emission standards as individual users.

## Common Commercial Applications

- **Event production companies** - Staff communication at festivals, sporting events, productions
- **Construction/site management** - Job site coordination in areas without reliable cell service

- **Agriculture/ranching** - Remote monitoring and worker communication
- **Mining and oil/gas** - Remote operations in areas without infrastructure
- **Telecommunications consulting** - Network design and deployment services

# What You Cannot Do

- Exceed FCC Part 15 power limits (1W conducted, 4W EIRP for 902-928 MHz)
- Operate outside the 902-928 MHz band in the US (or the equivalent ISM band in your country)
- Cause harmful interference to licensed services and fail to accept interference from licensed services
- Redistribute GPLv3-licensed firmware modifications without releasing source code

Consult with an RF engineer and attorney familiar with FCC regulations before major commercial deployments.

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