

CableFAX Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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Broadband Stand: Republicans Question FCC Broadband Finding

Much like the last 3 Congressionally-mandated reports, the FCC's 8th Broadband Availability Report concludes gaps in broadband availability continue to exist. Despite progress, the report found that about 19mln Americans (6% of the population) lack access to fixed broadband service at threshold speeds. In rural areas, nearly 25% of the population (14.5mln people) lacks access. It concludes that until the Commission's Connect America reforms are fully implemented, the gaps will likely continue. But the FCC's Republican commissioners see things differently. "It is discouraging that, for the 3rd year in a row, the majority has decided to clutch its earlier negative findings as to whether 'advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion,'" said *Robert McDowell's* statement, which called growth in broadband deployment (particularly mobile) "swift and strong." **Broadband for America** also disputes the findings. "In stark contrast to the FCC's findings recent report, the US has not only seen greater broadband availability, but broadband providers are delivering better and faster broadband service," said BfA co-chair *Harold Ford*. "The industry led by **Comcast, Verizon** and **AT&T** [has] invested more than \$250bln over past several years. The billions of dollars the industry invests every year have had an incredible impact on American businesses and families." FCC chmn *Julius Genachowski* acknowledged in his statement that great strides have been made in the rollout of next-gen high-speed services, but said much remains left to do. "Industry reports that the upgrade of cable infrastructure to DOCSIS 3.0 technology means that more than 80% of Americans have access to networks technically capable of 100 Mbps or more. But our data show that just 27% of Americans are being offered broadband services at those speeds today, and U.S. prices for these higher speed services exceed many other countries," the chmn said. In his dissenting statement, Republican FCC commish *Ajit Pai* complained that the FCC continues to ignore that the statute doesn't restrict qualified broadband HHs to those with access to fixed broadband services. If the FCC followed the statutory definition, it would have concluded that 5.5mln—not 19mln—lack access to advanced telecom capability, Pai said. Some possible good news for Pai going forward: a NOI for the 9th Broadband Availability Report asks whether mobile and fixed services should be evaluated separately or not. Pai agrees with the Commission that the country could do a better job deploying broadband infrastructure but believes the report largely misidentifies the barriers to broadband deployment as the price of computers, poor

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digital literacy, lack of consumer interest, etc. Those in the private sector instead indicate that “their caution stems primarily from regulatory uncertainty and in particular their concerns about whether and how Internet Protocol-based networks are going to be regulated in the future,” he said. Not everyone agrees, with **Free Press** urging the FCC to do everything in its power to ensure everyone has access to robust broadband services. And **Public Knowledge** piled on, releasing a statement that said, “Commissioners McDowell and Pai are worried that today’s report could be used to increase regulation of broadband providers. But broadband consumers can protect themselves best when they can switch away from providers who are behaving unfairly, and broadband providers that face competition have more incentive to expand into under-served markets and reach new users.”

Launch Pad: First word comes that **Fox Networks** is contemplating a national sports net., and now **Dreamworks** CEO *Jeffrey Katzenberg* reveals Dreamworks Animation is talking to 20th Century Fox about a family-oriented cable channel.

Google Fiber: It seems many residents living in apartments or condos are struggling to pre-register for **Google Fiber** in Kansas City, KS, and Kansas City, MS. The reason is that collecting addresses for MDUs isn’t completely automated, and sometimes Google doesn’t get the right apartment numbers, Google Fiber director, service delivery *Alana Karen* wrote on Google’s blog. She said fixing the problem has been “long and painful” but reports good progress. Since pre-registration opened on July 26, Google has been verifying residential addresses. So far, more than half the open questions from MDUs and single-family homes have been resolved by contacting property owners and managers, she said. “I promise we’re putting all hands on deck to lose this out ASAP,” she said. Ten “fiberhoods” have reached their pre-registration goal, according to Google. Greenway Fields has the highest pre-registration rate of 40%. Google requires anywhere between 5% to 25% of homes to pre-register for the service before it deploys. Google will accept pre-registrations until Sept 9 before it starts expanding its network to neighborhoods that have generated the most pre-registrations.

On the Hill: House Communications subcmte chmn *Greg Walden* (R-OR) will hold a hearing next month to discuss how to free more federal spectrum for commercial use.

Ratings: “Copper” shined like gold for **BBC America**, with Sun’s premiere going down as the net’s highest-rated series premiere ever (1.8mln total viewers). -- **Bravo’s** “The Real Housewives of NJ” delivered its highest-rated ep of the season, with nearly 3mln total viewers tuning in Sun (1.8mln 18-49s).

Programming: **TLC** has started production on a new series, “Vegas High Rollers” (wt), which explores the lives of 5 high-profile women at the “power center” of Las Vegas.

In the States: **GCI** has selected **TiVo** to provide its next-gen whole home TV solution, and will begin deployments later this year. The Alaskan op plans to offer TiVo across its entire footprint in early ’13. The TiVo solution includes the Premiere Q 4-tuner gateway DVR, TiVo Mini low-cost IP set-tops and the TiVo Stream, which enables access to content across tablets and smart-phones in the home. GCI also intends to be 1 of the 1st operators to utilize the TiVo Software and Service in conjunction with the **Pace** XG1 multi-tuner gateway with integrated DOCSIS and transcoding capabilities.

Speed Game: No comment from **Charter** on **DSL Reports’** assertion that the MSO is developing its own 300Mbps broadband service. To be sure, the ultra-broadband market is heating up, with **Comcast** and **Verizon FIOS** recently launching ultra-broadband tiers. Verizon’s 300 Mbps down/65 Mbps up tier is \$205 per month, while Comcast’s 305 Mbps down/75 Mbps up tier has a \$300 price tag. A Comcast rep said the MSO is targeting tech savvy families with multiple connected devices, as well as tech and gaming enthusiasts. Verizon has said its Quantum Internet targets heavy users of digital assets like photographers, graphic artists, musicians, video editors and producers as well as Web developers. Let the speed games begin...

At the Portals: **Verizon** is committed to **FIOS** and intends to fulfill its commitments to build it out in the areas where it’s already present, *Tom Tauke*, the telco’s evp, public affairs, told **FCC** cmsr *Jessica Rosenworcel* Mon, according to an ex parte filing. Tauke said Verizon continues to view DSL services as an important component of its lineup in order to offer a wireline broadband alternative to subs in non-FIOS areas, he said.

Home Security: After a successful pilot in Arizona, **Cox** is expanding its home security service to additional markets. The 24/7 monitoring systems feature intrusion and home safety monitoring, remote access, email/text alerts, safety sensors,

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secure video monitoring and home function control like lighting and temperature. The op tapped *Vince Groff*, who led initial development and trials, as gm of its home security business.

On the Circuit: Small and mid-tier service providers will discuss challenges they face as part of the opening session of **SCTE's Cable-Tec Expo** in Orlando, Oct 17. **Armstrong CTO Michael Giobbi**, **BendBroadband vp, tech Wade Holmes**, **Buckeye Cablevision CTO Joseph Jensen** and **Massillon Cable gm and tech ops manager Kelly Rehm** will be on the panel.

People: Startup vendor **iNovo Broadband** named **Michael Harney** as CEO. Harney recently led **Cisco's Service Provider Video Technology Group**, and was responsible for nearly \$3bln in annual revenues from set-top boxes, voice and data terminals, media distribution systems, and IPTV devices. -- **Outdoor Channel** added **Lorey Zlotnick** to be svp, marketing.

CableFAX Daily Stockwatch

Company	08/21 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	08/21 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS					
DIRECTV:	51.50	0.02	CONCURRENT:	4.46	(0.06)
DISH:	31.08	(0.41)	CONVERGYS:	15.42	(0.1)
DISNEY:	49.64	(0.81)	CSG SYSTEMS:	20.43	0.38
GE:	20.85	(0.08)	ECHOSTAR:	28.31	(0.02)
NEWS CORP:	23.54	0.27	GOOGLE:	669.51	(6.03)
MSOS					
CABLEVISION:	15.42	0.07	HARMONIC:	4.41	(0.05)
CHARTER:	77.28	(0.6)	INTEL:	26.11	(0.12)
COMCAST:	34.04	0.14	JDSU:	11.79	0.08
COMCAST SPCL:	33.13	(0.01)	LEVEL 3:	22.25	0.25
GCI:	9.10	(0.18)	MICROSOFT:	30.80	0.06
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	55.10	UNCH	RENTRAK:	18.11	(0.02)
LIBERTY INT:	17.88	(0.01)	SEACHANGE:	7.59	(0.08)
SHAW COMM:	20.46	(0.2)	SONY:	11.95	(0.05)
TIME WARNER CABLE:	89.33	(0.07)	SPRINT NEXTEL:	5.08	(0.03)
VIRGIN MEDIA:	27.56	(0.03)	TIVO:	9.24	(0.14)
WASH POST:	355.05	(0.81)	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	15.98	0.14
PROGRAMMING					
AMC NETWORKS:	39.63	(0.43)	VONAGE:	2.08	(0.03)
CBS:	36.24	0.16	YAHOO:	14.97	0.01
CROWN:	1.72	(0.06)	TELCOS		
DISCOVERY:	52.76	0.36	AT&T:	36.59	(0.3)
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	23.21	(0.13)	VERIZON:	42.89	(0.81)
HSN:	44.46	(0.4)	MARKET INDICES		
INTERACTIVE CORP:	51.90	(0.41)	DOW:	13203.58	(68.06)
LIONSGATE:	14.27	0.39	NASDAQ:	3067.26	(8.95)
LODGENET:	0.37	(0.11)	S&P 500:	1413.17	(4.96)
NEW FRONTIER:	1.56	(0.01)	TECHNOLOGY		
OUTDOOR:	7.17	0.14	ADVANTAGE:	2.10	0.02
SCRIPPS INT:	58.40	0.03	ALCATEL LUCENT:	1.19	(0.01)
TIME WARNER:	42.17	(0.57)	AMDOCS:	32.43	0.18
VALUEVISION:	2.06	0.06	AMPHENOL:	61.94	(0.22)
VIACOM:	50.99	(0.31)	AOL:	32.46	(0.35)
WWE:	8.57	(0.03)	APPLE:	656.06	(9.09)
TECHNOLOGY					
ARRIS GROUP:	13.70	(0.05)	AVID TECH:	9.01	0.08
BROADCOM:	35.39	(0.33)	BLNDER TONGUE:	0.98	(0.02)
CISCO:	19.16	0.22	BROADCOM:	35.39	(0.33)
CLEARWIRE:	1.80	(0.06)	CISCO:	19.16	0.22

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