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What the Industry Reads First

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Feud's Fallout: Broadcaster Says to Put AT&T-DirecTV on Hold

After filing a retrans complaint against **DirecTV** at the **FCC** (*CFX*, 6/15), **Northwest** and associated stations have filed an informal objection and request to hold DirecTV and AT&T's applications to merge in abeyance pending the FCC's examination of its complaint. "FCC approval of the Applicants' proposed combination would substantially exacerbate, in a manner that contravenes the public interest, the inequities and imbalances which already tilt the retransmission consent playing field too strongly in favor of DirecTV," the broadcasters wrote. Their argument is that DirecTV's size already gives it leverage in retrans negotiations, and that combining with AT&T will just make it worse. Northwest and DirecTV have been out of contract since Feb. The FCC's informal merger review clock on AT&T-DirecTV remains paused. The combination has its share of detractors outside Northwest. **Cox** has complained that the companies fail to provide any credible basis for showing the merger will serve the public interest absent the conditions it wants. Cox's condition wish-list includes limits on volume discounts and prohibiting exclusive programming contracts (hello, NFL Sunday Ticket). It's also asking that the FCC look at AT&T-DirecTV's MDU agreements and ensure it competes fairly (Cox says DirecTV is "exploiting a gap" in the FCC's cable inside wiring rules that interfere with its provisioning of MDUs that want video from DirecTV while retaining Internet access from Cox). **More Retrans-DBS Woes: DirecTV's** got company when it comes to retrans problems. **Dispatch**-owned Indianapolis affil **WTHR** is warning that **DISH** customers could lose its signal unless a new retrans deal is reached. DISH did not return requests for comment Mon, which was when the contract was set to expire at 2pm ET, according to WTHR. "We are currently in negotiations with Dispatch Broadcast Group, and we do not understand why they have chosen to involve our customers at this time," DISH said in a message to customers last week, adding that there is time to reach a resolution. Dispatch's other stations include central OH CBS affil **WNBS**. WTHR.com still warned DISH viewers they could lose the channel as of our press time.

Open Internet Watch: Now that the **FCC's** Title II order is in effect, the Commission is doing its part to prepare for any net neutrality complaints. *Parul Desai*, assistant bureau chief and dir of consumer engagement in the Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, was tapped as the "Open Internet ombudsperson." She'll serve as the primary point person for formal and informal questions and complaints related to the Open Internet rules. No one has heard of any

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yet, but some opponents of the order believe it's just a matter of time. "I've heard [in the press] the Cogent CEO claiming he's running there the 1st chance he gets. I don't know why we don't expect Netflix to run there the 1st chance it gets to collaterally attack deals that it's made since it has demonstrated the willingness to do that throughout this process," **NCTA's Michael Powell** told reporters earlier this month (**CFX**, 6/4). Interestingly, Cogent told us it "has not yet filed any complaints as we are currently in negotiations with the offending ISP's." Anyone can file a complaint at consumercomplaints.fcc.gov (click Open Internet as the issue). The FCC has been spreading the news that the order is effect, with chmn **Tom Wheeler** even posting a **YouTube** video on Fri declaring that there is "now a referee on the field to protect consumers and innovators online." Meanwhile, a House appropriations bill that includes a provision to block funding to the FCC if it enforces the Open Internet order is expected to be marked up Wed morning. **Free Press** has launched an email-writing campaign to members of Congress urging them not to support "this sneak attack on the open Internet." In semi-related news, for those watching **Charter's** actions closely these days, CEO **Tom Rutledge** met with Wheeler earlier this month to discuss the company's pending merger with Time Warner Cable and its acquisition of Bright House. Not surprisingly, the Open Internet order came up. Rutledge agreed that the Title II order hasn't altered Charter's approach to invest significant in it network and that he sees growth for the sector in general (see planned merger), but the company remains concerned about the regulatory uncertainty and potential unintended consequences caused by the reclassification, according to an ex parte.

Dodgers Ratings: Think non-**Time Warner Cable/Bright House** subs haven't missed the **Dodgers**? Doesn't sound like it. Since **Charter** launched **SportsNet L.A.** last Tues, Dodgers ratings have increased +98% in HH rating (through 5 games). The net has averaged a 1.25 HH rating (vs .63). It's up 119% in total viewers (99.6K vs 45.5K). But while it suggests a lot of people out there really want to watch the games, it's still unclear whether **DirecTV, DISH, Cox**, etc join the party...

AT&T's IoT Ambition: **AT&T**, already working with 8 of the top automakers, has some big plans when it comes to IoT. The company expects to connect nearly half of all newly connected US passenger vehicles by the end of the year, the company said. Since Jan, AT&T has inked IoT deals with more than 136 companies across industries including automotive, aviation, energy, healthcare, transportation, security and supply chain logistics. As of March 31, the telco's network had around 22mln IoT connected devices worldwide. The company sees 5 areas as key to increasing IoT adoption: improving customer experience, consistent standards and open platforms, enhanced security, better battery life and lower costs.

NFL's Content Push: The **NFL** tapped **Jordan Levin**, former evp, gm of the now-defunct **Xbox Entertainment Studios**, as its 1st-ever svp, chief content officer. He's tasked with growing the League across all its media assets, including **NFL Net** and **NFL Digital Media**. He'll also manage **NFL TV** event franchises, such as the **Super Bowl Halftime Show**.

Gigabit Broadband: **AT&T** continues to expand its GigaPower broadband service, launching the offering to residential and small business customers in parts of Charlotte and surrounding communities. The telco first launched the service in Austin, and the goal is to expand it to up to 25 markets. The service has also launched in the Atlanta, Chicago, Cupertino, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Nashville, Kansas City, Raleigh-Durham and Winston-Salem markets. AT&T also announced plans to launch the service in parts of the Greensboro, Jacksonville, Miami, St. Louis and San Antonio markets. In addition, AT&T's proposed merger with **DirecTV** is expected to expand GigaPower to an additional 2mln customer locations.

WiFi in LA: The **LA City Council** approved a Request for Participation last week to find broadband service provider(s) to offer Internet service that can deliver gigabit connections using the city's existing infrastructure. The RFP was issued as part of **CityLinkLA**, an initiative led by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and City Councilmember **Bob Blumenfeld**. Key components of the RFP include streamlined permit processes for major telecom projects as well as identification and development of bulk rate prices for assets owned by the city and other agencies that could be used to speed deployment of broadband infrastructure. This includes storm water drainage systems, street lights and existing fiber networks.

Advertising: Cross-channel ad platform **Adelphic** is partnering with **Facebook** unit **LiveRail** to offer connected TV advertising inventory to programmatic buyers. The partnership is expected to allow Adelphic's customers to programmatically buy the connected TV audience as well as incorporate connected TV inventory into multi-channel campaigns. Integrating programmatic buying to connected TV aims to give media buyers greater transparency into consumer preference and purchase behavior. -- Advertising management software provider **WideOrbit** scored a deal with **Viacom's** Media Networks to install **WO Network**, the company's platform for managing ad sales and commercial rights. The platform has already been

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launched at 16 Viacom properties, and the programmer plans to move its entire portfolio onto the platform by 3Q. The goal: allow Viacom's ad inventory to be managed, sold, scheduled and invoiced from a single platform.

4K Update: Advanced video compression technology provider **Thomson Video Networks'** ViBE 4K HEVC encoder enabled live 4K streaming of the 2015 French Open tennis championship, which wrapped up Sun. Launched at the 2015 NAB Show, the real-time encoding service is designed to allow live compression of 4K sources at up to 60 frames per second and in 10-bit color for 4K broadcasting. At the French Open, **France Télévisions** used the service to broadcast live 4K pictures in H.265 format on the **Francetvsport Ultra HD TV** channel. The broadcast was available to any viewers with 4K-compatible displays.

Programming: **A&E** ordered 2 more seasons (20 eps) of **Universal Television's** "Bates Motel," which will debut next year. -- **Nick** is expanding its preschool programming lineup with the launch of "Mutt & Stuff," a live-action preschool series from *Sid & Marty Krofft* debuting July 10. -- "Ellen's Design Challenge" returns to **HGTV** in Jan with new judges. -- **Ovation** will broadcast the 2015 Actors Hall of Fame ceremony on Oct 10.

People: Former **Pandora** exec **Rhonda Bitterman** will become vp, agency partnerships & development for **The Weather Company**.

Cablefax Daily Stockwatch

Company	06/15 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	06/15 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDs					
DIRECTV:	91.91	(0.18)	COMMSCOPE:	26.05	0.16
DISH:	72.25	(0.37)	CONCURRENT:	6.37	(0.05)
ENTRAVISION:	7.45	(0.05)	CONVERGYS:	25.10	(0.29)
GRAY TELEVISION:	15.10	(0.2)	CSG SYSTEMS:	31.59	(0.4)
MEDIA GENERAL:	16.51	0.01	ECHOSTAR:	50.26	(0.92)
NEXSTAR:	56.39	(0.37)	GOOGLE:	527.20	(5.13)
SINCLAIR:	29.38	0.03	HARMONIC:	7.17	(0.01)
MSOs					
CABLEVISION:	23.82	(0.12)	INTEL:	31.39	0.07
CHARTER:	171.19	(1.07)	INTERACTIVE CORP:	76.28	0.35
COMCAST:	58.34	0.08	JDSU:	12.72	(0.06)
COMCAST SPCL:	58.01	0.19	LEVEL 3:	54.31	(0.44)
GCI:	16.73	0.26	MICROSOFT:	45.48	(0.5)
GRAHAM HOLDING:	1051.90	(16.8)	NETFLIX:	654.02	(6.91)
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	51.94	(0.53)	NIELSEN:	44.76	(0.18)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	55.99	(0.04)	RENTRAK:	68.89	2.05
SHAW COMM:	22.01	0.16	SEACHANGE:	7.86	0.21
SHENTEL:	30.89	(1.62)	SONY:	30.68	0.24
SHENTEL:	30.89	(1.62)	SPRINT NEXTEL:	4.62	(0.01)
TIME WARNER CABLE:	178.34	(0.4)	TIVO:	10.68	(0.02)
PROGRAMMING					
21ST CENTURY FOX:	32.46	(0.24)	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	52.92	(0.72)
AMC NETWORKS:	78.16	(0.02)	VONAGE:	4.79	(0.1)
CBS:	58.14	(0.35)	YAHOO:	40.47	(0.06)
CROWN:	4.31	(0.06)	TELCOS		
DISCOVERY:	32.73	0.22	AT&T:	34.41	(0.24)
DISNEY:	110.18	0.23	CENTURYLINK:	32.37	(0.19)
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	38.67	0.02	TDS:	29.63	(0.56)
HSN:	68.22	(0.53)	VERIZON:	47.00	(0.25)
LIONSGATE:	36.74	(0.18)	MARKET INDICES		
MSG:	85.06	(0.16)	DOW:	17791.17	(107.67)
SCRIPPS INT:	67.36	0.68	NASDAQ:	5029.97	(21.13)
STARZ:	41.78	0.33	S&P 500:	2084.43	(9.68)
TIME WARNER:	86.18	0.17			
VIACOM:	66.57	(0.05)			
WWE:	15.63	0.07			
TECHNOLOGY					
ADVANTAGE:	2.32	(0.04)			
AMDOCS:	55.77	(0.65)			
AMPHENOL:	56.99	(0.7)			
AOL:	50.03	0.04			
APPLE:	126.92	(0.25)			
ARRIS GROUP:	32.16	(0.16)			
AVID TECH:	15.79	0.14			
BLNDER TONGUE:	0.80	(0.06)			
BROADCOM:	54.19	0.17			
CISCO:	28.48	(0.06)			

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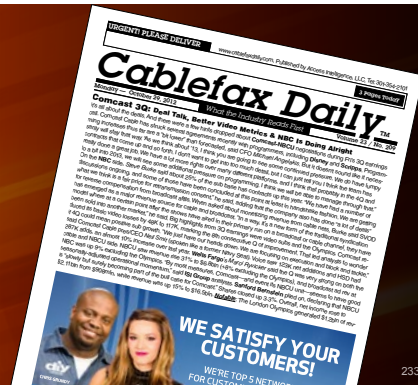
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CFX TECH by Joyce Wang

Cable Raises Red Flags on Unlicensed LTE

Plans by a few wireless carriers to develop commercial wireless services using LTE-Unlicensed (LTE-U) and Licensed Assisted Access (LAA) technology could potentially harm existing WiFi networks, WiFi vendors, service providers and groups told the **FCC** in comments last week as the agency examines the issue. Unlicensed LTE will cause “debilitating interference to other unlicensed services unless they incorporate effective sharing mechanisms...” **NCTA** said. **Verizon Wireless, T-Mobile, China Telecom** and **Huawei** are among the companies looking to deploy LTE-U/LAA technologies. T-Mobile, in its comments, claimed while these standards are still being developed, research suggests that LTE-U and LAA can be “good neighbors” with other unlicensed technologies, including WiFi. However, **Cablevision** claimed the proposed deployments lack the effective sharing mechanisms that “have powered the success of WiFi.” Some tech companies share cable’s concern. **Microsoft** is worried that any technology that “makes use of a licensed control channel will use that channel to give it priority access to the medium.” And in the case of WiFi, it will degrade WiFi performance. As for the vendors, **Broadcom**, for one, believes LAA can coexist with WiFi given proper planning and the inclusion of “robust coexistence mechanisms.” It emphasized that stakeholders must be incentivized to develop and implement those mechanisms. **Cisco** plans to build unlicensed technology targeted for service providers. It urged regulators not to impose any rules and have the private industry resolve reasonable coexistence mechanisms. “In our view, industry standards conversations have the promise of enabling band sharing between unlicensed technologies,” Cisco said. **WiFi Alliance**, which counts **Broadcom, Comcast, Huawei, Cisco, and T-Mobile** as members, said it welcomes “cross-industry coopera-

tion to ensure coexistence among different uses of unlicensed spectrum.” That said, if consensus can’t be reached, or if there’s inadequate collaboration, the FCC must intervene to ensure unlicensed LTE doesn’t impede WiFi, the group said. Verizon and its partners designed LTE-U services from the start to avoid harming other unlicensed operations, the carrier said. In fact, Verizon has a particular interest in ensuring that new uses of unlicensed spectrum don’t degrade WiFi operations: Its wireless subs use WiFi on a daily basis. In addition, Verizon claimed published tests show LTE-U avoids interfering with WiFi better than WiFi operators avoid interference among themselves. Reply comments are due June 26.

Philo Gets More Funding: **Philo**, the Boston startup offering streaming TV service at colleges, scored \$10mln in funding from investors including lead investor **New Enterprise Associates, CBC New Media Group, HBO, Rho Ventures, XFUND** and CEO **Andrew McCollum**. The funding is expected to allow Philo to “expand upon its innovative product vision, as well as additional operational and strategic initiatives,” including the relocation of the company’s headquarters to San Francisco, the company said.

DOCSIS 3.1: Chinese vendor **Huawei** said it teamed with Danish telecom provider **TDC Group** in a recent DOCSIS 3.1 trial, which saw downstream speeds reaching up to 840Mbps. The field test used the 3.1 compliant distributed converged cable access platform from Huawei and was performed on TDC’s broadband network in Copenhagen. CableLabs is leading the cable industry’s effort on DOCSIS 3.1 standards. Various MSOs have been working on 3.1 field tests with deployments expected later this year and beyond.

Got tech news? Reach out to Cablefax Tech editor Joyce Wang at jwang@accessintel.com

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