

Cablefax Daily™

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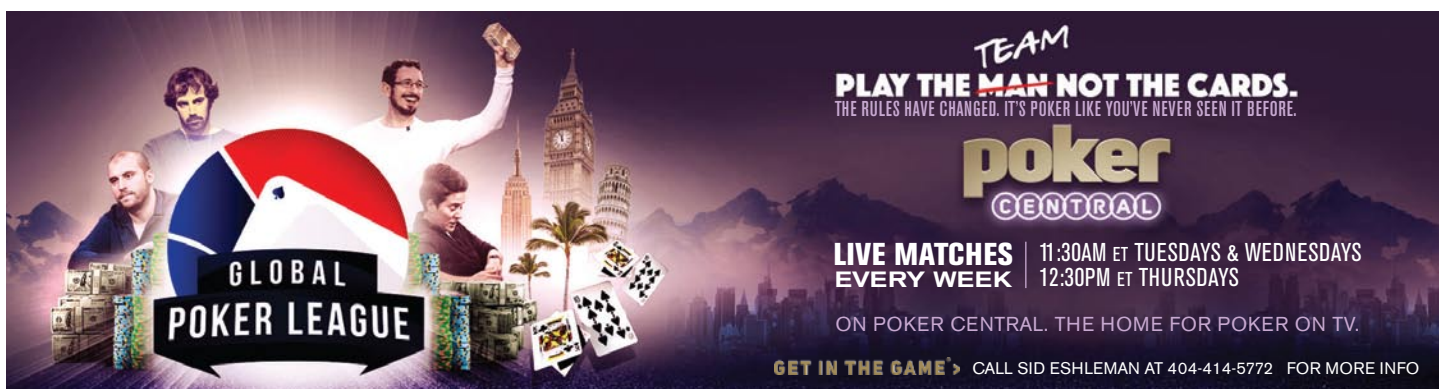
What the Industry Reads First

Volume 27 / No. 119

Cablevision-Altice: Deal Closes as French Buyers Look to Future

Altice closed on its \$10bln deal for **Cablevision** Tues morning, making it the 4th largest US cable operator. Altice USA CEO *Dexter Goei* ushered in the news on **CNBC's** "Squawk on the Street," where he was immediately pressed on how the French company will bring about the targeted \$900mln in synergies. "I think it's fair to say just give us the space to operate here," Goei said, pointing to 1Q revenue growth at **Suddenlink**. "All I can say is that we feel good about our medium term targets here." He also addressed the notion that Altice was going to come in and fire everyone over 30, saying that some of controlling shareholder *Patrick Drahi's* comments have been "a little misinterpreted." Wholesale changes among employees is a complete misnomer for Altice right now, he said. Altice announced several Cablevision execs who will be part of the Altice USA leadership team, including *Lisa Rosenblum* (general counsel), *Patrick Dolan* (pres, News 12 Nets—the only Dolan to remain with the new company), *Matthew Lake* (CMO) and *Ed Renicker* (pres, media sales). The Altice USA team also includes some Suddenlink execs, such as *Terry Cordova* (CTO), *Kevin Stephens* (pres, business services) and *Greg Graff* (head of residential sales). *David Gilles*, formerly svp, ops at Suddenlink, serves as head of Suddenlink operations. *Pragash Pillai*, previously svp, infrastructure engineering for Cablevision, heads the Optimum side of the business. "We are very excited about our US business and the opportunities we see in this market. We will accelerate network investments and bring innovative products and services to US customers by leveraging our global operational expertise, scale and resources," Drahi said in a statement. "I wish to also thank the Dolan family for entrusting us with their life's work at Cablevision, where they have developed under their pioneering stewardship one of America's pre-eminent cable operations with best-in-class management talent." On Mon, Altice promoted COO *Michel Combes* to CEO, succeeding Goei who will focus on the successful integration of Cablevision and Suddenlink with Altice. Drahi stepped down as pres, Altice, but will continue to set out the strategic and operational agenda for the group as founder and controlling shareholder. He leads the newly formed Altice Group Advisory Council.

DISH-Tribune: **DISH** and **Tribune** impasse has now hit the courts, with the satellite provider filing suit claiming that the broadcaster has waged a false and defamatory campaign against it. Tribune called the lawsuit "baseless." "For almost 9 days, since the expiration of the contract between our companies, Tribune Broadcasting has tried repeatedly to engage in meaningful negotiations with Dish Network," said *Gary Weitman*, Tribune Media's svp, corporate relations, in a prepared statement. "Instead, Dish has run to a courthouse to wage its campaign of delay and distraction, rather than sit down at the negotiating table and come to terms on a new contract. DISH takes issue with Tribune websites describing the dispute that declare that customers give it the lowest rating for value. It believes the connotation is that DISH had the lowest score among any service provider in a 2015 survey, while participants gave the same lowest grade available to 20 of the 24 providers in the survey. It's also unhappy Tribune is using the DISH name and logo in words like "dishgusting" and "dishturbing," saying it has a negative impact on the brand. DISH has been without Tribune stations and **WGN America** since June



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12. The dispute involves access to 42 local channels in 33 markets across 34 states and DC.

ACC Forum: Cable's communications professionals got a Beltway 101 download Tues at the **Association of Cable Communicators** Forum Tues in NYC. **NCTA** vp, deputy gen counsel *Diane Burstein*, who was around for 1992 Cable Act's passage, said that "that's the only comparable period" to now in terms of FCC activity. The difference was back then a major statute was passed, she said. "The **FCC** is as active as I've ever seen them." The FCC's net neutrality rules, fresh off their approval from the DC Circuit, were front and center with Burstein saying Judge *Stephen Williams'* comments could be significant if the Supreme Court is petitioned for review. "He said that when you change your mind as the FCC did, that you have a heightened standard that you have to meet," Burstein said. One bright spot is NCTA's continued push for an all-apps approach. "I think we're at the beginning of a conversation about this with the FCC," and will continue to work on making it a reality, said NCTA vp, association affairs, office of rural/midsize operators *Lisa Schoenthaler*.

Senate Focuses on Customer Service: Reps from **Comcast, Charter, AT&T, DISH** and **Time Warner Cable** will be in the hot seat Thurs for a hearing on cable and satellite customer service practices. The hearing—led by *Rob Portman* (R-OH) and *Claire McCaskill* (D-MO), the chmn and top-ranking Dem of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations—will focus on billing practices, refunds and other customer service issues. The Senate panel expects to conclude its investigation into potential barriers to competition in the industry in the fall.

ACA's Take on Fees: The **FCC** needs to raise the level of fees assessed on the DBS subcategory of the cable/IPTV fee category to "ensure a more equitable distribution of the burden of supporting activities of Media Bureau full time equivalent employees" in managing regulation of MVPD services, **ACA** said in its comments responding to the FCC's fiscal 2016 regulatory fee assessment NPRM. The agency proposed to assess DBS providers a fraction of the regulatory fees it assesses cable operators and IPTV providers supporting Media Bureau activities related to MVPD service: 27 cents per sub per year for DBS providers vs. \$1 per year per sub for cable and IPTV providers. In addition, ACA urged the FCC to ensure that wireless voice provider burdens on Wireline Competition Bureau resources are reflected in its regulatory fee program.

FCC Oversight Hearing: The **House Communications Subcmte** will hear from all 5 **FCC** commissioners during its oversight hearing on July 12. Following up on the panel's recent investigation into potential waste, fraud and abuse in the Lifeline program, lawmakers will seek an update. The panel will also review issues including the agency's proposed broadband privacy rules, the set-top proposal, as well as commission process.

X1 Ready for Business: **Comcast** will commence a hospitality industry trial this summer with Philly hotels of its X1 video platform, marking its first such trial with business customers. It's pretty clear the company is serious about becoming a player in business TV market as it made the announcement at The Hospitality Industry Technology Exposition & Conference. X1 features to be trialed with hotels include its voice remote, free-to-guests VOD, pause/rewind live TV, the talking guide, language choice and the X1 sports app (real-time scores, stats alongside the action).

TV5MONDE Voyage Launched: **TV5MONDE** launched **TV5MONDE Voyage**, a French language lifestyle network (subtitled in English) geared to travelers as part of a new deal with **SONIFI** Solutions. The channel is available nationwide in the majority of the country's 4- and 5- star hotels across brands as part of the "Free to guest" in-room package. In addition, **TV5MONDE Cinema**, a branded VOD channel was launched as part of TV5MONDE's deal with SONIFI.

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Questions: Kate Schaeffer at kschaeffer@accessintel.com
Advertising Information: Rich Hauptner at rhauptner@accessintel.com



BUSINESS & FINANCE

CBSN on Xbox: CBSN landed on Xbox 360 Tues. Through the **CBS News** app, the news service became the 1st free, 24/7 digital streaming news service to launch on Xbox 360. The service is already available on Xbox One and connected TV devices, including **Amazon Fire TV**, **Android TV**, **Apple TV**, **Roku** players and Roku TV models, as well as the CBS News apps for iOS, Android and Windows 8.1, and CBSNews.com on desktop and mobile devices.

Cable-Tec Expo: **Nokia** CTO and pres of **Nokia Bell Labs** **Marcus Weldon** will deliver the keynote remarks during the **SCTE Cable-Tec Expo** on Sept 27. Weldon is expected to share insights into the future of communications networks.

Programming: **FX** renewed comedy series "Archer" for 3 more seasons. The series will return for an 8-ep season 8 in early 2017, followed by 2 additional 8-ep seasons.

People: **Starz** named **Jeffrey Hirsch** as COO, where he'll oversee affil sales, marketing, programming operations and research. He joined Starz in 2015 from **Time Warner Cable**, serving as pres, global marketing and product development. **David Weil** was elevated to chief legal officer, with expanded duties including HR oversight. Both will continue to report to CEO **Chris Albrecht**. Starz pres **Glenn Curtis** retires from his post at the end of the month.

Cablefax Daily Stockwatch

Company	06/21 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	06/21 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS					
DISH:	53.10	(0.26)	INTERACTIVE CORP:	56.23	0.75
ENTRAVISION:	6.52	(0.23)	LEVEL 3:	51.75	0.20
GRAY TELEVISION:	11.26	(0.27)	MICROSOFT:	51.19	1.12
MEDIA GENERAL:	17.27	(0.39)	NETFLIX:	90.93	(2.87)
NEXSTAR:	47.75	(1.69)	NIELSEN:	53.53	(0.07)
SINCLAIR:	29.72	(0.72)	SEACHANGE:	3.46	(0.07)
TEGNA:	22.41	(0.16)	SONY:	29.08	0.54
MSOS					
CABLE ONE:	497.57	(4.91)	SPRINT NEXTEL:	4.17	0.31
CHARTER:	222.72	1.60	SYNACOR:	3.28	(0.12)
COMCAST:	62.56	0.10	TIVO:	10.17	0.02
GCI:	15.22	(0.02)	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	68.39	0.31
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	58.77	(0.22)	VONAGE:	5.44	0.04
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	31.88	(2.99)	YAHOO:	37.41	0.12
SHAW COMM:	19.29	0.32	TELCOS		
SHENTEL:	35.71	0.06	AT&T:	41.07	0.29
PROGRAMMING					
21ST CENTURY FOX:	28.81	(0.38)	CENTURYLINK:	28.08	0.51
AMC NETWORKS:	59.62	(0.84)	FRONTIER:	5.21	0.04
CBS:	53.46	(0.56)	TDS:	28.89	0.63
DISCOVERY:	25.77	(0.32)	VERIZON:	54.10	0.34
DISNEY:	98.80	(0.77)	MARKET INDICES		
GRUPO TELEVISA:	25.81	(0.09)	DOW:	17829.73	24.86
HSN:	48.89	0.14	NASDAQ:	4843.76	6.55
LIONSGATE:	20.74	(0.89)	S&P 500:	2088.90	5.65
MSG NETWORKS:	16.11	(0.8)			
SCRIPPS INT:	63.22	(1.87)			
STARZ:	27.54	(0.42)			
TIME WARNER:	71.83	(0.81)			
VIACOM:	48.18	(1.44)			
WWE:	18.67	(0.21)			
TECHNOLOGY					
ADDVANTAGE:	1.79	(0.02)			
AMDOCS:	56.55	(0.32)			
AMPHENOL:	58.27	0.01			
APPLE:	95.92	0.82			
ARRIS GROUP:	22.64	(0.21)			
AVID TECH:	6.30	(0.02)			
CISCO:	28.77	(0.03)			
COMMSCOPE:	32.14	(0.06)			
CONCURRENT:	5.62	(0.16)			
CONVERGYS:	25.82	(0.39)			
CSG SYSTEMS:	40.71	(0.23)			
ECHOSTAR:	39.07	(0.29)			
GOOGLE:	696.04	2.33			
HARMONIC:	2.95	(0.03)			
INTEL:	32.32	0.15			

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By Genre: Best Show or Series In The Following Genre:

- Animals/Nature
- Animated
- Children's
- Comedy
- Documentary
- Drama
- Education/Instructional
- Faith Based/Religious
- Family Friendly
- Food
- Music
- News
- Public Affairs
- Reality
- Reality Competition/Game Show
- Regional Program
- Sci Fi
- Sports
- Talk Shows
- Other: enter your best in a genre (not mentioned above)

By Genre: Best Actor/Actress/Host In The Following Genres:

- Comedy
- Drama
- Family Friendly
- Food
- Music
- News/Public Affairs
- Reality Competition/Game Show
- Regional Program
- Sports
- Talk Shows
- Other: enter your best in a genre (not mentioned above)

Special Categories

- Best Branded Content
- Best International Content
- Best Mini-Series
- Best Opening Sequence
- Best Online/Mobile Extras for a Linear Show
- Best Online-Only/Mobile-Only Show
- Best Video on Demand Program/Special

The winners and honorable mentions will be honored Sept. 22, 2016 in New York City.

**Enter by
June 24!**

Questions: Contact Mary-Lou French at mfrench@accessintel.com or (301) 354-1851.
Enter online at www.cablefaxprogramawards.com