

# Cablefax Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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## CBRS 101: Initial Commercial Deployment Plans Hit the FCC

If you haven't heard of the **Citizens Broadband Radio Service** spectrum, just wait. Monday was the deadline for Spectrum Access System [SAS] administrators to submit their initial commercial deployment plans to the **FCC**. This is pretty big stuff as it's a unique approach to spectrum management, with commercial use sharing bandwidth with the military. It's seen as a highly effective way to deliver wireless coverage to indoor venues, airports, Smart Cities, transportation grids and industrial manufacturing. And this isn't way off in the future, with commercial deployment expected to begin before the end of the year. There are three classes of users for the 150 MHz of 3.5 GHz spectrum—incumbent/military users, priority access users (more akin to traditional licensed spectrum users where you buy at auction right to access) and general authorized users (analogous to unlicensed users in that anyone is free to use the tier if it's not being used by an incumbent or priority access holder). SAS administrators, such as **Federated Wireless**, **Google** and **CommScope**, coordinate it all. The FCC is expected to make redacted info from Monday's deployment proposals available in the coming days. "It should provide an overall picture of the approximate numbers of CBRS radios that people plan to deploy during this initial commercial deployment phases as well as where in the country that will be," **CBRS Alliance** pres *Dave Wright* told **Cablefax**. "I think it will speak to the breadth and diversity of use cases." The FCC is expected to approve proposals by the end of October. To help illustrate how hot the space is, CBRS Alliance just celebrated its second birthday. When it was founded in 2016, it had six members. Today, it has more than 100, including all the leading cable and mobile operators. Among those administrators filing commercial deployment plans is Federated Wireless, which has 15 leading companies—including **Charter**, **Arris** and **American Tower**—participating in its proposal. Federated's plan has nationwide scale with nearly 16K deployment sites by its customers in 47 states and DC, with a broad set of use cases, including 5G, advanced LTE, wireless carrier and cable solutions, fixed and mobile networks, enterprise Private-LTE, and managed network services. This CBRS work was tested last month at an interoperability event at **CableLabs** that brought together five SAS administrators with 11 device vendors. Of the mandatory tests performed, there was a 98% or better test completion rate with no recorded failures and more than 50 successful interactions. "The CBRS framework enables a diverse range of interests to come together to try and operationalize the band. Cable has interest in mobile and fixed

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Advertising Contact: Olivia Murray, Account Executive

301.354.2010 | omurray@accessintel.com

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wireless applications,” Wright explained. “Mobile operators see this as a good way to densify and add some capacity to existing licensed bands. There’s also a whole range of enterprise and industrial applications.” The latter is why companies like **Union Pacific** and **FedEx** have been active in the FCC proceeding as well as the **NFL** and **PGA**. “Leveraging CBRS shared spectrum, networks will cost a fraction of both the capital expense and operating costs of other next-generation wireless networks in development,” Arris CEO *Bruce McClelland* penned in a blog post Monday. Arris’ **Ruckus Networks** announced Monday that it’s the first technology provider to achieve FCC CBRS certification. It will begin trialing CBRS 3.5 Ghz LTE access points in Champaign-Urbana, IL, with Pavlov Media, a private provider of broadband services for multi-family real estate owners. More than 20 proof-of-concept trials using Ruckus equipment have been successfully completed, with more than 30 in the pipeline. As CBRS moves full steam ahead, Federated Wireless has launched a new CPI training program that addresses the FCC mandate that all outdoor CBRS radios (CBSDs) be installed by a certified professional installer. CBRS is heavily featured in next month’s **SCTE-ISBE Cable-Tec Expo** program, including sessions on the opportunities and challenges for sharing spectrum. On Wednesday, the CBRS Alliance will host a four-hour session during **Mobile World Congress Americas** that will explore “OnGo,” the brand being used to indicate a device would use the wireless spec. Speakers include Charter wireless tech svp *Craig Cowden*.

**A Moonves-Less CBS:** **BTIG’s Rich Greenfield** is making the rounds following *Les Moonves’* exit at **CBS**. Appearing on **Bloomberg TV** Monday, the analyst said the first order of business will be lining up a CEO (he doesn’t expect acting chief *Joseph Ianniello* to stick around long). “I think there’s going to be a full break between old and new. You saw the board is totally transformed as of yesterday evening,” Greenfield noted. The six new independent board members are *Candace Beinecke, Barbara Byrne, Brian Goldner, Richard Parsons, Susan Schuman* and *Strauss Zelnick*. As for whether CBS is in play, Greenfield’s take is that there aren’t any obvious buyers outside **Viacom** nor does he think **National Amusements** wants to sell it. CBS announced Moonves’ departure Sunday, the same day the *New Yorker* published sexual harassment claims against him by six more women. Moonves and CBS will donate \$20mIn to one or more organizations that support the #MeToo movement and equality for women in the workplace. CBS said Moonves will not receive any severance benefits at this time (other than certain fully accrued and vested compensation and benefits); any payments to be made in the future will depend upon the results of the independent investigation and subsequent board evaluation.

**More Fiber:** **Altice USA’s** Gigabit fiber symmetrical internet service launched to residential customers in areas of Long Island. Delivered over the company’s new FTTH network, the offering brings services into the home through its compact fiber Gateway, an all-in-one integrated giga-optics router and smart WiFi device. The fiber service will roll out to additional

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areas of Long Island and the NY area region as Altice continues to deploy and activate its FTTH network. It's also boosting broadband services on its existing hybrid fiber-coaxial network in the Optimum service area, delivering speeds of up to 400Mbps for residential customers with plans to launch a gigabit service and smart WiFi capabilities over HFC in 2019.

**AT&T 5G:** AT&T plans to bring mobile 5G to parts of Houston, Jacksonville, Louisville, New Orleans, and San Antonio by the end of 2018. Those come in addition to seven cities the company had already announced: Atlanta, Charlotte, Dallas, Indianapolis, Oklahoma City, Raleigh and Waco. Moving into 2019, AT&T plans to launch mobile 5G in parts of Vegas, LA, Nashville, Orlando, San Diego, San Francisco and San Jose. AT&T is partnering with **Ericsson**, **Nokia** and **Samsung** as its tech suppliers. Over the weekend, AT&T also reached a major technical milestone by making the world's first wireless 5G data transfer over millimeter wave using standards-based production equipment with a mobile form factor device.

**Spectrum Outage:** Charter was working Monday to fully restore TV services to central Florida customers following a power issue that began impacting the network Sunday night at 7pm ET. "Our engineers have been working nonstop to restore services and we apologize to customers for the inconvenience," a spokesperson said. The power issue affected TV services in Central FL and all services for some customers in Orlando. Charter restored internet and voice service for affected customers overnight/early Monday morning. Linear TV channels were restored by mid-morning with the MSO continuing to work Monday afternoon to restore other services, such as on demand.

**Forward Future:** Telemundo launched a national Latino empowerment platform "Somos El Futuro: The Future is Us." The multiplatform initiative will celebrate Latinos' impact in the US and highlight the importance of civic engagement. It launched on Monday alongside a report detailing how American Latinos are the driving force behind population growth in the US at nearly 18% of the total population. The net will head on a country-wide empowerment tour to inform and provide resources to consumers on opportunities to register to vote.

**Speed Racer:** After raising speeds for its commercial customers, **Blue Ridge** has raised its residential internet speeds. Current customers that subscribe to the G30 speed tier, for instance, and have the correct modem equipment will see their download speed more than double to 75 Mbps and their upload speed rise from 3 Mbps to 6 Mbps. Blue Ridge will notify customers if they require a modem upgrade to receive the new speeds. -- **Vast Broadband** is bringing speeds of up to 1 Gbps to the Black Hills in November. Including residential and business customers, Vast services are available to nearly 60K in the Black Hills region. This is Vast's first expansion of its 1 Gig internet footprint in South Dakota. In preparation for the move, Vast transitioned some channels in the Black Hills area from analog to digital on Sept 5.

**Raw Talent:** *Renee Young* is making history by becoming the first woman to join **WWE's** "Monday Night Raw" broadcast booth full time. Starting Monday night, she will join *Michael Cole* and *Corey Graves* each week. She started with WWE in 2012 and has worked as a backstage interviewer and commentator on Raw, "SmackDown Live" and "NXT." The net also announced *Jonathan Coachman* as the new host of WWE's pay-per-view kickoff shows.

**Call for Action:** It has been more than two months since **Univision** went dark on **DISH**, and **Latinos in Information Sciences and Technology Association** pres/CEO *Jose Marquez* is the latest to call for a restoration of services. In a letter to DISH chmn *Charlie Ergen*, Marquez claimed that a letter was sent to DISH on August 9 requesting a meeting to discuss its commitment to the US Latino community. He says he never got a response. "We are calling for a boycott of DISH and will encourage Latino consumers to take their business to other providers who genuinely support and give back to the Latino community," Marquez wrote. He also encouraged Latinos to write letters to Ergen with their "feelings of disappointment" with the lack of Latino representation on the board and senior management of DISH Latino Network. DISH didn't return requests for comment by deadline.

**Winning Streak:** **Comcast** again emerged as the victor in another patent battle with **TiVo**. **The US Patent Trial and Appeal Board** invalidated two more of TiVo's patents in the company's lawsuit against Comcast, one dealing with "Methods and Systems for Updating Functionality of a Set-Top Box Using Markup Language" and another on "Interactive Program Guide Systems and Processes." TiVo only has one patent remaining as valid at this point in the proceedings.

**People:** **BET Nets** tapped *Vince Hudson* as evp, chief brand officer for BET. He comes from beverage company **Diageo**. In this newly created role, he'll be responsible for managing the BET brand, developing and implementing brand strategy and campaigns -- **Discovery** upped *Scott Lewers* to evp, multiplatform programming and digital media. *Jennifer Williams* also was promoted, rising to the newly-created role of evp, global talent management and brand strategy and operations, Discovery and Factual. -- **Crown Media Family Nets** appointed three directors to newly created roles. *Rachel Snyder* joined as director of social media, unscripted programming *Sajaad Shah* was appointed director, email marketing and Crown hired *Leilani Gushiken* as director, production, EPK & gallery.