

Cablefax Daily™

WHAT THE INDUSTRY READS FIRST

Imagining What's Possible: Cox Leans in on Smart Cities, Innovation

While there's been excitement for years around the potential of smart cities, the U.S. doesn't have a single city ranked in the top 10 of the 2021 IMD-SUTD Smart City Index. Singapore took first, followed by Zurich and Oslo. Switzerland had three cities in the top 10. New York was the top-ranked city in the U.S. at #12, with another American city not appearing again until #31 with L.A.

"It's a little bit embarrassing in my mind because we are a great country. I think there's a lot we can do," said *Esther Lee*, the President/CEO of Northern Virginia technology innovation hub **Refraction** and former Senior Policy Adviser to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce under the Obama administration. Refraction is stepping up to partner with **Cox Business** next year to launch a Smart Cities Index, with a focus, at least initially, on Virginia.

"The index will highlight the most innovative localities that are leveraging smart cities technology to serve citizens and drive economic growth and jobs. We'll launch in 2023 with multiple strategic partners and events across the Commonwealth," **Cox** Northern Virginia VP *Kathryn Falk* revealed at a Cox Business event in Tysons Corner this week. Held at Refraction's innovation and co-work space (housed in **Gannett's** former HQ), the Cox event showcased technologies on the cutting edge of education, healthcare, work and life that are powered by Cox Business, mainly in the managed network

and cloud services space.

The Cox SmartBiz event gave attendees a sense of what's already happening and what's to come, with Cox President *Mark Greatrex* making the trip to from Atlanta to see all the innovation. "We're really proud to leverage our connectivity and all of our leading technology to empower businesses and entrepreneurs and innovators. It just gives me a lot of energy because it's all about creating a better future for the next generation," Greatrex said.

The demos included AR technology that allows EMTs responding to a situation that needs immediate assistance to link up with surgeons who can use AR to visually guide them through lifesaving steps, including even small surgery. McLean, Virginia-based **DataBuoy** was on site with its "Shotpoint" gunshot detection and localization system, which runs on edge computing. Think of a smoke detector but for gunfire. Showing that smart city technology can go beyond smart parking and street light monitoring, DataBuoy worked with utility **BGE** in Annapolis, Maryland, to use street lights for mounting and powering the system. It was found to notably improve police response times. Businesses in Las Vegas' popular Fremont Street are already using the technology. And unlike posters on the NextDoor app, Shotpoint is able to distinguish pretty accurately between gunfire and fireworks.

Cox showcased its work in Vegas, where it's partnered with the city for more than a year on a managed private network in Baker Park that allows for the use of 4K cameras, sensors and



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other technology to evaluate park activity, including crime. Execs said the city and Cox are working to expand to other parks.

The day also illustrated what the upcoming generation can do with all of this technology. *Kaavya Karthikeyan* and *Akanksha Tibrewala*, seniors at Virginia’s Chantilly High School, were there to demo the automatic walker they created to assist those with mobility issues and encourage them to exercise. AutoTrem features a start and stop button as well as a sensor to warn of an obstruction and a laser guide to help users increase their strides. The teens were inspired to develop the walker by Tibrewala’s great grandmother who has Parkinson’s Disease.

The biggest challenge for smart initiatives isn’t the technology, it’s the mindset. “I think for us to truly innovate, we’re going to have to think about a future that doesn’t exist today and remind ourselves that 65% of the children in K-12 classrooms in this country today are preparing for a career that doesn’t exist today,” said Fairfax County Schools Superintendent *Michelle Reid*, who participated in the Cox SmartBiz event.

AMC NETWORKS LAYS OUT RESTRUCTURING COSTS

AMC Networks is undergoing a restructuring that could see it incur as much as \$475 million in pre-tax charges. Those charges will include strategic programming assessments leading to content charges of \$300-400 million and organizational restructuring costs (including severance, retention and other related costs) of approximately \$50-75 million, according to a Thursday **SEC** filing. Management said the restructuring efforts are ongoing and there could be additional strategic assessments of programming that could lead to more charges, but the plan is expected to be substantially completed by the end of 2023. Among the rumored

departures from the company as it undergoes a CEO search and conducts layoffs are SVP, Original Programming and Development for **WE tv** *David Stefanou* and SVP, Non-Fiction and Alternative Programming for **AMC** and **SundanceTV** *Marco Bresaz*.

FCC GIVES OUT 2.5 GHZ LICENSES

The **FCC**’s Wireless Telecommunications Bureau awarded 51 of the 68 flexible-use, county-based overlay licenses won via the Commission’s 2.5 GHz auction to successful bidders. Of the applications granted, 15 applicants received small business bidding credits and 23 obtained rural service provider bidding credits. Staff continues to review the remaining 17 long-form applications.

CARRIAGE

Live shopping channels **QVC** and **HSN** were rolled out on **Pluto TV** Friday. The two will have approximately 40 hours of programming across both channels, including QVC’s “In the Kitchen with David” and HSN’s “Gotta See G by Giuliana Rancic.” QVC and HSN’s 14 linear channels reach more than 200 million homes across the globe. – Ten new linear channels are coming to **The Roku Channel**, bringing its total lineup to over 350. The platform partnered with the **NHL** for the league’s first linear channel which will feature game high-lights, condensed versions of classic games, All-Star games and original productions. It’s also rolling out four channels dedicated to Holiday music from iHeartRadio. Other channels launching are “Come Dine with Me,” Fuse Media’s “Latino Vibes,” “Vevo Holiday,” “WildEarth” and “Women’s Sports Network.”

PROGRAMMING

It’s almost playoff time in College Football, and **ESPN** will have almost 20 hours of live coverage surrounding the Playoff Selection

Cablefax
MOST POWERFUL WOMEN
Celebration Luncheon
 Thursday, December 8 | 11am - 2pm
 Edison Ballroom, NYC

Join us as we salute the women who have made their mark on the industry with their leadership and innovation.

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Day. Starting at 9am on **ESPN2**, “Championship Drive: Rankings Countdown” will set the stage for the selection show. The four College Football Playoff (CFP) teams will be revealed on the flagship channel at noon, hosted by *Rece Davis* alongside *Kirk Herbstreit*, *Joey Galloway*, *Jesse Palmer* and *David Pollack*. *Heather Dinich* will report from the CFP HQ in Dallas and other reporters will be scattered across the country at the schools that are in the hunt. Following the four-hour show will be the post-selection reaction from 4pm-7pm before “Championship Drive: Bowl Breakdown” at 8:30pm. “SportsCenter” will also have analysis and commentary throughout the day. – **Apple TV+** renewed the thriller “Surface” for a second season. Season 1 is currently streaming on the platform. – The betting-focused simulcast of the St. Louis Blues vs New York Rangers game Monday will begin at 7pm on **MSGSN**. Rangers reporter *Michelle Gingras*, former Stanley Cup champion *Scott Gomez* and others will break down the game from a betting point of view, providing updates to odds, lines and other relative notes. The game’s main telecast will be on **MSG**.

PEOPLE

NBCUniversal named *Mihiri Bonney* as VP, International Communications on its Advertising and Partnerships Communications team. Her appointment comes as the company looks to streamline its local, national and global strategies into a single go-to-market narrative. Bonney will be based in London and will report to EVP, Communications *Joe Benarroch*. – The **Fiber Broadband Association** tapped *Marissa Mitrovich* as VP, Public Policy, effective Jan. 4, 2023. She’ll head the FBA’s advocacy efforts to Congress, the White House and executive branch and regulatory agencies while also leading the FBA’s public policy committee. Mitrovich was previously VP of Federal Legislative Affairs at **Frontier** and before that VP of Public Policy with **Verizon**. – **Warner Bros. Discovery** promoted *David Decker* from EVP, Content Licensing to President, Content Sales. He’ll replace the outgoing *Jim Wuthrich*, who will resign at the end of the year.

CABLEFAX DASHBOARD

Twitter Hits

 **Michael Eisner** @Michael_Eisner
The Walt Disney Company has suffered in recent years. This is a good time for us to remember the words of Walt Disney who said, “Everybody falls down. Getting back up is how you learn to walk.”

 **Shirley Bloomfield** @sbloomfield15
Feeling so many mixed emotions given that the success of @NTCAconnect’s own pension plan, we are seeing a number of exemplary folks in the rural #broadband industry retiring as of today. My heart is heavy but I am proud of the program we run that allows the next adventure



 **Gary Shapiro** @GaryShapiro
French President Emmanuel Macron is in DC this week for a formal state visit. Check out my latest in @townhall.com on Macron’s lessons in leadership and why his example could inspire a 3rd party candidate in the 2024 Presidential election. townhall.com/columnists/gar...



Research

(Source: [EY 2023 Top 10 Risks in Telecommunications](#))

- > Talent turnover remains a key risk. While 91% of technology, media & entertainment and telecom employees want to work remotely for two or more days per week, 25% of management teams believe people should return to office full-time.
- > 76% of telcos reported growth in cyber attacks YOY. 39% of telecom chief information security officers believe security is not adequately considered as part of strategic investments.
- > Poor management of the sustainability agenda has become of concern with 39% of consumers saying connectivity providers need to do more to address sustainability concerns.

Up Ahead

- DECEMBER 8:** [Cablefax Most Powerful Women Celebration Luncheon](#); The Edison Ballroom, NYC
- JANUARY 5-8:** [CES 2023](#), Las Vegas
- JANUARY 24-26:** [Content Americas](#), Miami
- FEBRUARY 7:** [Regional Fiber Connect](#); Raleigh, NC

Quotable

“There remains no obvious floor for traditional video distribution; whatever sports and news floor there might be for cable network programming - and we’re no longer confident even of that - that’s a need that can easily be met by vMVPDs, which despite spiraling prices are still cheaper than most cable alternatives. That is not to say, however, that there is no possible role for cable operators in video distribution. There is an obvious consumer demand for an aggregator of aggregators... it must also be conceded that this ‘aggregator of aggregators’ white space is so glaringly obvious that there are a staggering number of pretenders to the throne. Cable operators might arguably be best positioned to capture the opportunity... but they will face, in the tech giants, formidable competitors with much greater scale and much deeper pockets.”

– **MoffettNathanson Cord-Cutting Monitor Q3 2022**