

Cablefax Daily™

WHAT THE INDUSTRY READS FIRST

Question Mark: Charter Stands Against Potential CBRS Interference

Charter is standing in opposition to a waiver petition at the **FCC** that it believes could cause interference with CBRS channels.

The petition in question is from **Samsung** as it looks to market and operate a 3.7 GHz band 5G base station that also supports operations in the CBRS band. Samsung said its customers who operate in both the 3.5 and 3.7 GHz bands have been asking for radios and solutions that allow them to transmit to both bands, and the technology company told the FCC in comments that its solution would mean smaller boxes, less energy consumption and faster deployments. The waiver would be for requirements tied to out-of-band emissions and testing tied to those.

“Due to the planned use of a single power amplifier across adjacent bands, Samsung cannot implement the typical filtering that would allow the radio to limit [out-of-band-emissions] from the CBRS signal into the 3.7 GHz band,” the tech giant said in its initial petition. “Indeed, conventional filters operate by reducing a power amplifier’s signal outside the desired band, but in an adjacent-band design, both bands are desired for commercial marketability.”

But the unknown that comes with allowing someone to operate outside of the rules established for CBRS has Charter nervous. Charter and **Comcast** have deployed

CBRS spectrum in their networks to support their respective wireless businesses within their footprints. In reply comments submitted Wednesday, Charter asked the FCC to wait to act on the petition until interested stakeholders could review and comment on the results of a number of tests from Samsung on if and how its dual-band transmitter would satisfy CBRS in-band emissions levels and out-of-band emissions in each of its operating modes.

Charter said it supports the development of new technologies, especially those for broadband connectivity, but there isn’t enough information in the record right now for anyone to be sure that Samsung’s device couldn’t cause harmful interference in the CBRS band.

“As with any waiver, Samsung must demonstrate that special circumstances warrant a deviation from the general rule and that such deviation better serves the public interest,” Charter said.

But if the Commission does OK Samsung’s waiver without giving stakeholders extra time to review that information, Charter has asked it to condition any waiver on a requirement that Samsung immediately shut down its base station should it prove to be causing harmful interference to CBRS operations.

“This approach will, at a minimum, offer licensed users a failsafe to protect their existing operations from any harmful interference caused by Samsung’s proposed base station operation,” Charter said.

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DIRECTV IS A GEMINI

DirecTV is revamping its set-top box lineup with the introduction of its Gemini device nationwide. The wirelessly connected device touts 4K quality across streaming apps as well as an integrated Google voice remote with universal search. The first Gemini device will be included for new DirecTV customers at no additional cost. The provider has also kicked off an ad campaign starring *Brian Cox* that highlights the pain points customers often experience with cable and how DirecTV addresses those concerns.

NAD: CHARTER SUPPORTED DOWNLOAD SPEED CLAIMS

The **National Advertising Division** found that **Charter** properly supported challenged claims tied to the reliability of speeds on its internet service in advertising. The challenge, brought by **AT&T Services**, was tied to claims of the “most consistent download speeds” made in two television commercials for Spectrum internet service. Both commercials included a small print disclosure that identified that the claim was based on a comparison of fiber participants in the **FCC’s** 2023 Measuring Broadband America Report.

T-MOBILE STEPS UP TO THE PLATE

T-Mobile struck a new deal with MLB to become the official wireless partner for **MLB**, Minor League Baseball and Little League Baseball and Softball. The deal will run until 2028 and see MLB test an automated ball-strike system over a T-Mobile 5G private mobile network at select MiLB games this season. T-Mobile will continue as the title sponsor for the Home Run Derby, and will now also be the presenting sponsor for the Little League Baseball World Series. Additionally, T-Mobile customers will continue to receive free MLB.TV subscriptions through T-Mobile Tuesdays.

CARRIAGE

Sling Freestream is adding 16 documentary, exploration and Spanish-language channels to its platform. That includes **Forensic Files**, which features sit-down talks with experts on real-life criminal cases, **MagellanTV Now** and **Vevos Iconos Latinos**, a channel dedicated to videos and performances from Latin music artists.

FIBER FRENZY

Charter launched internet, mobile, TV and voice services to more than 200 homes and businesses in Orange County, North Carolina. The fiber buildout is part of the company’s \$5 billion investment in unserved rural communities, which includes the funds it won through the **FCC’s** RDOF auction.

AT THE COMMISSION

The **FCC’s** Wireline Competition Bureau released a list of the 34 organizations selected for two Affordable Connectivity Pilot Programs. The Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Program is a one-year program focused on increasing awareness of the program, particularly among those that receive federal housing assistance, and 23 organizations across 19 states have been chosen to participate. The other nine are taking part in the ACP Navigator Pilot Program, another one-year program that gives a small group of neutral, trusted third-

Cablefax Executive Round Up

What industry term/acronym remains the most confusing to customers?



Chris Bastian
SVP/CTIO
SCTE

“I think the most confusing industry term to our customers is **10G**. (Is it speed, is it generation, does it include upstream?) We know that the deployment of 10G technologies will enable unprecedented innovation and advancement across industries, and these technologies will transform the Internet experience for years to come. It is our job to educate the industry on what that means. 10G is the future-ready broadband network that will power the data-driven Fourth Industrial Revolution, with the power and low latency to support whatever comes next, and ultimately delivering internet speeds of 10 gigabits per second. There has been significant effort to both teach and promote 10G from both CableLabs and NCTA. We must continue to grow the swell of understanding.”



Vicki Lins
President/CEO
CTAM

“Consumers don’t know if they’re watching their content through AVOD, TVOD, SVOD, or a FAST service. They want something easy to access, want it to be cost-effective, and want a broad selection of content ready to consume. As the industry wrestles through the transition to streaming, developing and combining platforms and rethinking business strategies, consumers continue to value simplicity. At CTAM, we’re building positive momentum working with leading companies on collective marketing efforts focused on consumer value, experience, and product appeal, ultimately making it a win-win for the industry and the consumer.”

party entities access to the National Verifier so they can help consumers complete and submit ACP applications. Of those participating, 32 will receive grant funds from the FCC to support their outreach and individual missions. The Baltimore County Public Library and Florida Atlantic University will be participating in the ACP Navigator Pilot Program, but will not be supported by any grants.

TORNADO RELIEF CONTINUES

Comcast NBCUniversal is donating \$50,000 to the American Red Cross of Alabama and Mississippi to help with disaster relief and recovery efforts from recent storms and tornadoes. The company's team of technicians and contractors have been working across the region to restore service, deploying several generators in affected areas as a temporary solution.

PROGRAMMING

Food Network's new competition program "Summer Baking Championship" will debut with back-to-back episodes May 15 at 9pm, available to stream on **discovery+**. *Jesse Palmer* will handle host duties as ten bakers from around the U.S. compete for a \$25,000 grand prize. – "Ghosts of Beirut," a four-part drama based on the hunt for Lebanese terrorist *Imad Mughniyeh*, will premiere on **Showtime** on May 21 at 10pm. It'll be available to stream starting May 19. – The new series "Funny or Die's High Science" will be made available to stream on **HBO Max** and **discovery+** starting April 20. The series will have two episodes premiere weekly on **Discovery Channel** starting April 26. – **MLB** and **Imagine Entertainment** agreed to a multiyear strategic partnership that'll include the development of scripted and non-scripted film and TV properties. The first project will be centered on the 2023 World Series and the on- and off-field storylines surrounding it. – The 2023 WNBA Draft will air on **ESPN** on Monday at 7pm. *Ryan Ruocco* will serve as the host alongside analysts *Rebecca Lobo* and *LaChina Robinson* as well as reporter *Holly Rowe*. – "Tito: The *Terry Francona* Story" will debut April 23 at 8pm on **MLB Network**. The documentary highlights the career of *Francona*, who currently manages the *Guardians*, and how his style and approach could lead him to baseball's Hall of Fame. – **HGTV** ordered two new seasons of "Ugliest House in America." Both seasons will have five half-hour episodes before a one-hour season finale. Season 4 is set to begin in late summer, and Season 5 is slated to get underway come 2024. – Nine episodes from Season 5 of "Looney Tunes Cartoons" were added to **HBO Max**. – **Law&Crime** acquired the rights to "COPS Reloaded." It'll premiere on the network's platforms Monday at 7pm, with clips from all 158 episodes to be posted on the **Law&Crime YouTube** channel. – **TLC** is bringing a new relationship series "Match Me Abroad," where three

international matchmakers will help Americans find love in other countries. The show will premiere May 14 at 10pm.

DOING GOOD

MTV Entertainment Studios will award 22 non-profit organizations grant funding for local activations to take place on Mental Health Action Day (May 18). The Day was originally founded in 2021 to increase awareness of mental health culture, and it'll be MTV Entertainment Studios' second year of overseeing a grant program that invests in organizations dedicated to educating, encouraging and empowering their communities to improve their mental health. Grant recipients include The Benji Project, a sensory fair featuring local students and how they use their sense to handle stress; Sounds of Saving, which connects high school students in the outer boroughs of NYC to musicians and the visual arts workshop *WisdoMania* Foundation.

PEOPLE

Walt Disney continues to shake the tree, with *Joe Earley* upped to President, Direct-to-Consumer, Disney Entertainment. Earley, who was named President of **Hulu** in January 2022, succeeds *Michael Paull*, who is exiting the company after six years. He will lead all of Disney Entertainment's streaming efforts, including **Disney+** and **Hulu**, and report to Disney Entertainment Co-Chairs *Dana Walden* and *Alan Bergman*. – **Disney** also named *Asad Ayaz* as its first Chief Brand Officer, reporting to CEO *Bob Iger*. Ayaz will remain as President of Marketing for **Walt Disney Studios**, but in his new role, he'll be responsible for promoting the company's brand globally across touchpoints and consumer experiences. The 18-year Disney veteran will also set corporate synergy and franchise priorities in consultation with *Iger* and oversee the creation and execution of brand marketing campaigns such as **Disney100**, which celebrates the company's 100th year. – **NAB** promoted *Josh Miely* from Director, Member Experience and Industry Affairs to VP, Content Design and Development within the organization's global connections and events department. Effective April 27, *Miely*—who's been at **NAB** since June 2007—will oversee the design, development and delivery of content programming for **NAB Show** events, as well as assisting with content and program development efforts for virtual, regional and community-based events. He'll report to VP/Managing Director, Global Connections and Events *Chris Brown*.

EDITOR'S NOTE

It's Spring Break for **Cablefax Daily**. Your next issue will arrive Tuesday, April 11. As always, **Cablefax.com** will keep you up-to-date on breaking news.

PROGRAMMER'S PAGE

To Leave or Not to Leave the Amish Paradise

Every child in the Amish community will at some point be met with a crossroads moment where they determine if they wish to remain dedicated to the Church or forge their own path in the non-English world. The emotions that come with such a turning point are on display in the Season 7 premiere of **TLC's** "Return to Amish," providing a glimpse into a community rooted in traditional values. The new season showcases old and new characters at different stages of their lives—some who already chose to leave the Amish community and others still grappling with the decision. Take *Rosanna*, for example, who expresses a love for her Amish boyfriend *Johnny* but also has a growing desire to see what else is in the world. She's content with her Amish life, but after experiencing things like parasailing and meeting friends beyond her community, she's torn. Or *Jeremiah*, who left the Amish life years ago and talks about the stress he's felt since amid trying to build a new family. While showcasing a vastly different lifestyle from most folks watching, **TLC's** VP, Production on the East Coast *Wendy Douglas* noted it's important to still maintain a high level of respect. "It's very important to us that we embrace unique and authentic stories that our audience can relate to and be empowered by ... We are following real-life developments and need to be sensitive and responsible in regards to the environment and community," Douglas told *CFX*. Viewers can relate to navigating a seemingly impossible decision. For the Amish youth, however, their ultimate decision means potentially turning away from everything they've known up until that point. "In seeing the highs and lows of each of the Amish journeys, hopefully people are inspired by their stories of wanting to experience something different or having to face conflict or staying true to themselves even if it means going against all that they know," Douglas said. — *Noah Ziegler*

REVIEWS

It's a crowded landscape of programming about the terrible incident in Waco, TX, 30 years ago, when *David Koresh* and 75 of his followers, including women and children, perished after a nearly two-month standoff against the ATF. For the record, 4 ATF agents lost their lives, as did 6 of Koresh's Branch Davidian followers, in an initial gun battle, Feb. 28, 1993. This incident precipitated the 51-day standoff. Should viewers, young and old, want an intense introduction to the largest gunfight on US soil since the Civil War, multiple options exist. Beyond Netflix's new 3-part doc, "Waco: American Apocalypse," one of the best is **Showtime's** "Waco," streaming on **Paramount+** and Showtime on demand. Besides its history, the 6-part Showtime series, from 2018, is loaded with top-notch talent before they were big. This includes *Michael Shannon* as FBI negotiator *Gary Noesner*, *Julia Garner* ("Ozark") as a Koresh acolyte, *Rory Kulkun* as *David Thibodeau*, a drummer who joins Koresh's group by chance, and *Taylor Kitsch* ("Friday Night Lights") as Koresh. Spoiler alert: Noesner's and Thibodeau's books about the ordeal form the basis of the Showtime series. True, it drags at times—that's the nature of 51-day standoffs—but it's a balanced backgrounder. Up ahead is Showtime's "Waco: The Aftermath," (April 16) with Shannon reprising his role. — *Seth Arenstein*

BASIC CABLE P2+ PRIME RANKINGS* (03/27/23-04/02/23)		
MON-SUN	MC US AA%	MC US AA (000)
FNC	0.730	2281
ESPN	0.529	1651
MSNBC	0.467	1459
HGTV	0.278	869
INSP	0.229	715
HIST	0.228	711
DISC	0.210	657
FOOD	0.204	637
HALL	0.201	628
CNN	0.198	618
USA	0.181	565
TNT	0.171	535
TBSC	0.171	533
TLC	0.167	520
TVLAND	0.144	449
ID	0.144	448
A&E	0.121	378
LIFE	0.116	361
GSN	0.113	353
BRAVO	0.110	344
WETV	0.110	344
AMC	0.104	325
REELZ	0.103	323
FX	0.098	306
BET	0.094	293
OXY	0.089	278
NAN	0.087	272
HMM	0.087	270
SYFY	0.079	247
NATGEO	0.078	244
PRMNT	0.078	243
NBA	0.075	233
FETV	0.074	230
COM	0.073	227
FXX	0.070	219

*P2+ L+SD rankers are based on national Nielsen numbers, not coverage.

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