

QUOTABLE

“The economics of FWA are shaky: as usage grows, so does the cost to serve it relative to the market price, and “spare capacity” isn’t as spare as it sounds once you run the numbers. Prices will therefore rise, demand will flatten, and we’ll land at some form of equilibrium.” - *Charter COO Nick Jeffery on fixed wireless.*

FBA BETS BIG ON AI AND QUANTUM

When the **Fiber Broadband Association** hosts its annual **Fiber Connect** conference next June in Nashville, AI and quantum infrastructure will get their own designated pavilion on the show floor.

“If you think about fiber in two kinds of phases—the first phase is just connectivity for the internet, and the second phase is basically the distribution of intelligence. Whether that’s AI or quantum networking or advanced energy... this is really what we’re focused on: building out the critical infrastructure for the next century,” FBA CEO *Gary Bolton* told **CFX**.

The groundwork for connecting the fiber ecosystem to AI, quantum and data center infrastructure leaders was laid out at May 2026’s Fiber Connect, where Bolton [said](#) the mission to connect every home with fiber will be accomplished by the end of this decade. As a result, Bolton said, the industry is moving from the information economy to what he calls the “thinking economy.”

The annual gathering draws more than 5,000 attendees, largely broadband providers and vendors. It’ll still have plenty of panels and floorspace for the business of providing FTTH, but FBA wants members to think about AI on a larger scale.

“When I have roundtables with our fiber members on AI, they tend to largely talk about... using AI to improve their customer service, AI chatbots... or their network operations. So they’re using the tools—but there’s a fundamental shift in the business model” they’re not yet focused on, said Bolton.

But times are changing. As AI agents run continuously rather than responding to occasional human queries, network traffic stops being bursts of upticks and becomes constant. Bolton said that change is already reshaping capacity planning for fiber operators well beyond the data center.

The idea is to get attendees thinking about neoclouds, agentic AI, the AI edge, hyper-scale-ready infrastructure and the fiber required to support it all. And yes, quantum computing—something Bolton acknowledges can be hard to understand. He thinks it’ll help that member **EPB** is hosting a [Quantum in Business Summit](#) on Oct. 1. EPB has a quantum computer and is inviting community businesses in to ask how they can leverage it to advance their business.

EPB is the exception rather than the rule when it comes to quantum. And Bolton is careful to frame this as an expansion for Fiber Connect rather than an overhaul. “We don’t want a small operator that’s focused on fiber-to-the-home to walk into Fiber Connect like, ‘Where am I? This doesn’t feel like the fiber-to-the-home conference,’” he said. “That’s not going to happen.”

But it won't be the end of the conversation, with the FBA chief promising a full rollout early next year of a thinking economy framework.

"We're expanding the mission, and we have a whole new set of players that we're bringing into the ecosystem, because FBA is much greater than just some events," Bolton said, pointing to the association's 20 working groups and committees that have produced 28 papers so far this year on best practices and research. "This industry is evolving, and so we need to be able to invite in new ecosystem players, so that we're not having these separate industries, but it's all converging into a single focus."

18 FORMER FCC OFFICIALS SIDE WITH ABC

A bipartisan group of 18 former **FCC** chairmen, commissioners, chiefs of staff, general counsels and bureau chiefs have joined together to file an amicus brief in support of **ABC/Disney** lawsuit challenging the FCC's early review of its broadcast licenses and alleged retaliatory campaign against the network's free speech. "For more than a year, the Chairman has violated the First Amendment in plain view. He has faced little consequence for doing so, having deployed FCC authority in a manner designed to escape judicial review and to disincentivize formal legal challenges. This case thus represents a critical opportunity for this Court to safeguard the constitutional rights to free speech and a free press that are foundational to our democracy," said Thursday's filing in the District Court of the District of Columbia. Among those signing on are Democratic FCC Chair *Tom Wheeler* (2013-2017), Republican Chairman and Commissioner *Alfred Sikes* (1989-1993), Republican Commissioner *Rachelle Chong* (1994-1997), Democratic Commissioner *Michael Copps* (2001-2011) as well as former Media Bureau Chief *Bill Lake* (2009 to 2017) and *Blair Levin*, who served as Chief of Staff to *Reed Hundt* (1993-1997). ABC and Disney filed the [lawsuit](#) last month, seeking to halt the FCC's early license renewal review. The challenge claims the agency is encroaching on First Amendment rights by targeting critics of President *Trump*. The FCC has its own supporters in the brawl, with nonprofit public interest law firm **America First Legal Foundation** (AFL) and the **Center for American Rights** (CAR) filing amicus briefs supporting the Commission. AFL, which filed a petition to deny the renewal of all eight Disney ABC licenses, argues the early-renewal process is a lawful tool within the FCC's discretion and CAR claims Disney's discrimination allegations are serious and substantiated.

JEFFERY: CABLE'S #1 FAN

Nick Jeffery, **Charter's** new COO, picked quite the month to join the company. His first official day was Sept. 1, just two weeks after the operator closed its \$34.5 billion acquisition of **Cox Communications**. And yesterday, those former Cox markets celebrated "[Spectrum Day](#)," marking the official transition to the new branding, packaging and pricing. All the while, there's been [plenty of talk](#) about what Jeffery will bring to the table. At an investor conference last week, Charter CEO *Chris Winfrey* said the former **Frontier Communications** CEO brings an outside perspective that will help the organization think differently as it begins a new era. But on Thursday, we got to hear from the man himself. Jeffery published a **LinkedIn blog** explaining why he made the jump to cable. "Let's address the elephant in the room. Why would I spend five years building Frontier's fiber story, only to jump to a company many still see as 'just cable?'"

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Jeffery wrote, inviting readers to look closer at how Charter is evolving and why the “time is now ripe for cable.” He noted the ongoing network upgrade, which is on track to be halfway complete by EOY, with the rest of the project slated to wrap up at the end of 2027. “With Spectrum’s network upgrade, the question is now how we communicate and position our blazing fast network with customers, and I’m excited to help shape that answer for Spectrum,” Jeffery wrote, while also lauding **Spectrum Mobile** and Charter’s convergence strategy as a whole, including its innovative video packaging that bundles streamers. He also talked up the advantage of Spectrum’s scale vs smaller fiber builders. “This is a capital-intensive industry where scale economics are important. Smaller fiber builders are already consolidating as cheap capital dries up and ROCE (Return on Capital Employed) declines,” Jeffery wrote. “With competitive pressure, increasing costs of capital and more rural builds, margins will compress and the economic case for marginal fiber builds will stall. Given there are 1,000+ small broadband providers across the US, consolidation is coming—it’s just math and a huge disruption.” He concluded by questioning the economics of fixed wireless and argued that the telcos lack the “national fixed scale” offered by cable.

PSKY-WBD FIGHT LATEST

The **FCC** delivered some good news for the currently halted \$110 billion merger between **Paramount Skydance** and **Warner Bros. Discovery**, giving a greenlight to the foreign investment funding the deal. For months, critics of the transaction in D.C. have raised flags about the Middle Eastern sovereign wealth funds investing, but the FCC’s Media Bureau ultimately gave the thumbs up Thursday, skipping a full Commission vote on the matter. “Several commenters assert that the Commission, as part of its section 310(b)(4) review of the Petition, should consider the ‘practical influence’ that the Foreign Investors may have over Paramount and its Licensees in addition to ‘formal voting control.’ We find this argument unconvincing,” read the decision, echoing Paramount’s own assurances that foreign investors won’t have any voting rights in the new company and “therefore will not be able to wield any influence, let alone control, over decisions involving the Licensees.” – There’s less to smile about when it comes to PSKY’s antitrust battle with the state coalition led by California AG *Rob Bonta* and the **Writers Guild of America**. The case is set to go to trial in March, at which point PSKY will have already started accruing a \$650 million “ticking fee” for every quarter the deal doesn’t close, starting Oct. 1. PSKY is reportedly considering moving its business out of California if a settlement can’t be reached with Bonta and the WGA ahead of trial. The parties will sit down for a settlement conference on Oct. 14-15, with PSKY and the states set to exchange settlement statements laying out potential remedies by Oct. 7.

FCC SEEKING 5G BROADCAST INPUT

The **FCC** Media Bureau is seeking comment on a petition for rulemaking filed by XGN/X1 Mobile and **Tyche Media** that looks to allow low-power television (LPTV) stations on a voluntary basis to use the 5G Broadcast transmission standard as an alternative to the currently-authorized ATSC 1.0 and ATSC 3.0 transmission standards. Comments are due Oct. 19, with reply comments due Nov. 18. XGN and X1 Mobile are led by *Frank Copsidas*, who founded the **5G Broadcast Collective** and serves as Founder and Chairman of the **LPTV Broadcasters Association**. Tyche Media is currently using an FCC experimental license for 5G broadcasting of Boston low-power station WCRN. XGN/X1 Mobile and Tyche Media say their petition is substantially different from a 5G [Broadcast petition by HC2 Broadcasting](#) that the FCC opened a docket on last year. “HC2’s proposal contemplates exclusive datacasting with no continuing linear free-to-air obligation and no dedicated public-safety capacity,” they said, noting their proposal requires a high-quality linear free-to-air stream and permanently reserves substantial bandwidth for public safety.

ROKU BUNDLES UP

BundleMania isn’t slowing down any time soon! **Roku**, which is currently set to be acquired by **Fox Corp.** in a \$22 billion deal, introduced more than 30 streaming bundles to its lineup. Each bundle groups two streamers for a lower price than if you signed up for them individually. The lineup includes **HBO Max/Cinemax** for \$22.99/month, **Starz/MGM+** for \$13.99, **Fox One/Fox Nation** for \$24.99, **AMC+/Hallmark+** for \$13.99 and more. Roku also launched bundles for its own ad-free streamer **Howdy**, which can be paired with Hallmark+ (\$8.99), **UP Faith &**

Family (\$6.99) or **A&E Crime Central** (\$6.99). The new bundles are available now.

SPECTRUM ADVOCACY GROUP TOUTS CBRS AS PATH TO 6G

As Congress and the **FCC** weigh restoring auction authority and identifying new mid-band spectrum, some are pushing against giving carriers more exclusive licenses. **Spectrum for the Future**, a group consisting of **Charter**, **Comcast**, **NCTA** and other telecom organizations that back shared-access spectrum policy, penned a [blog](#) to spotlight recent 6G trials as evidence that CBRS can carry the industry into the next wireless generation without new exclusive license auctions. The group highlighted **Verizon** and **Samsung** running an AI-powered sensing demo on 40 MHz of shared CBRS spectrum, using wireless signals to detect crowd density in real time—technology Verizon has called an early building block for 6G. **Nvidia**, **Foxconn** and researchers from Rice University separately used CBRS to test Nvidia's Aerial platform for 5G and 6G research. Spectrum for the Future argues that the trials show shared spectrum can support cutting-edge development, also pointing to CBRS' role in ¾ of U.S. private 5G networks and its use by universities, utilities and rural operators as evidence the model scales beyond incumbents.

DAZN TO STREAM MORE BASKETBALL

We've written a lot about **DAZN**'s growing presence in the U.S., but the streamer isn't forgetting about maintaining its international footprint. DAZN signed a deal with Great Britain's **Super League Basketball** to stream games this season for free. SLB and DAZN have been partners since 2024. The expanded collaboration will include every regular-season, Championship, Cup and Playoff game, with on-demand viewing available as well. The 2026-27 season tips off Friday.

JUSTWATCH GETS INTO STREAMING

JustWatch, the app that helps you find where to watch movies and TV shows in an increasingly fragmented TV ecosystem, is launching its own streamer. **JustWatch TV** will offer free ad-supported and premium ad-free viewing and rentals, with **Paramount**, New Regency and more set as content launch partners. The streaming experience will launch within the JustWatch website and app, which boasts over 50 million monthly users, next month.

CARRIAGE

Faith-based broadcast network **Greater Love TV** launched nationwide on **Comcast** Xfinity TV this week, marking its largest distribution milestone since it was founded in 2023. Operated by Oasis Television Ministries, the net features preaching, teaching, worship and family programming from ministries across the country. – **Samsung TV Plus** is now the exclusive FAST partner of the daily sports news program "Front Office Sports Tonight," which will begin streaming on the service on Sept. 18. New episodes of the 30-minute program will stream every weekday at 11pm on Samsung Television Network, the platform's flagship channel and will also be available on demand starting Sept. 30. -- D.C.-area RSN **Monumental Sports Network** is making its DTC platform **Monumental+** more accessible, partnering with Amazon to make subscriptions available for purchase via **Prime Video**. The added carriage comes weeks before the **NBA**'s Wizards and **NHL**'s Capitals start their respective seasons. Monthly subscriptions are available for \$19.99/month, while yearly plans run at \$179.99/year. Or, folks can authenticate and access Monumental+ with their pay TV credentials.

PEOPLE

Mediacom appointed *Gavin Throckmorton* as Group VP of Mobile Strategy. Throckmorton brings over 25 years of telecom experience to the operator's wireless unit, with a career spanning facilities-based mobile carriers and MVNOs. He first joined Sprint in 2000, later led the product organization for **MetroPCS** and was one of the first members of **Charter**'s mobile leadership team, helping build and grow **Spectrum Mobile**. – *Angel Melanson* joined **AMC Global Media** as the new Director of Programming for horror streamer **Shudder**. Melanson will drive Shudder's content strategy and report to AMCGM EVP, Linear and Streaming Products *Courtney Thomasma*.