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Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

[O’Rielly on USF Contribution Base](#)

The FCC should not expand the Universal Service Fund contribution base or increase the overall USF budget, said FCC Commissioner Michael O’Rielly in an address at the Hudson Institute this week. “Instead of broadening the base, I want to get overall spending under control,” said O’Rielly. “I would start by making a real effort to find efficiencies and savings within and across all USF programs.”

[New RUS Administrator Appointed](#)

President Donald Trump has named appoint Kenneth Johnson to be the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Administrator, reflecting another move in his proposed rural broadband agenda. Johnson comes to the role with plenty of experience in addressing rural broadband and utility issues. He currently serves as general manager and CEO of Co-Mo Electric Cooperative and president for Co-Mo Connect in Tipton, Missouri.

[FCC 2018 Broadband Report Released](#)

The FCC, voting 3-2 along party lines, has adopted its 2018 Broadband Deployment Report. Since 1996, with the passage of Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the FCC has been required to determine annually whether advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed to all Americans “in a reasonable and timely fashion.”

[Rural Broadband Funding Report](#)

Special Report—From AT&T to Cincinnati Bell: Which carriers received the most rural broadband funding in 2017?

[Internet Giants Back Net Neutrality Efforts](#)

A trade group representing internet giants including Google and Facebook is throwing its support behind a bill that would reverse the repeal of the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) net neutrality rules.



Market Watch

[Rumored Frontier Sale of Verizon Lines](#)

[CenturyLink, Frontier Take Lead on CAF-II](#)

[Verizon Awarded \\$82M in Broadband Funding](#)

[BTC Broadband Removes Bandwidth Caps](#)



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Questions? Comments?
Contact Chris Barron

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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

Future of IoT Book Review

Discussions of the Internet of Things (IoT) typically focus on one of a few topics. Chief among them is security: even at this early stage we are awash in stories about manufacturers moving into the field without updating their threat models and the consequences of this gap in their thinking.

Securing a Small Business

Cybersecurity is a major point of anxiety for any business. Data breaches can be extremely costly, not only in terms of the data compromised but also in the damage to the organization's reputation following an attack. This issue is all the more important for small to midsize businesses (SMBs) that may lack the capital to bounce back from an attack as easily as large enterprises. If you find yourself among the many professionals worried about your security, then fret not.

Comporium Whole Home Wi-Fi

South Carolina-based regional broadband provider Comporium is launching Comporium Whole Home Wi-Fi – a mesh Wi-Fi offering aimed at enabling customers to connect wirelessly to their broadband connection from anywhere in the home. Comporium will use equipment from AirTies to support the offering.

Vonage Extends SD-WAN to OTT

Vonage is giving its small and medium-sized business customers the option use over-the-top broadband by incorporating QoS into its SmartWAN service, broadening the reach of its SD-WAN product set. To address concerns raised by businesses using public broadband-based SD-WAN services, the SmartWAN product can monitor quality of each broadband connection while dynamically routing voice and messaging traffic for consistent QoS and UC reliability.

Cisco: Severe Bug in Appliances

Cisco's Adaptive Security Appliance (ASA) flaw with a CVSS score of 10 is now being exploited by attacks. Cisco has updated its advisory for vulnerability CVE-2018-0101 for the second time since warning customers of the critical flaw on January 29. The bug affects its ASA and Firepower security appliances. The networking giant now says it is "aware of attempted malicious use of..."



IN FOCUS: CAF Phase II Auction Moves Forward

The FCC continues to move forward with the CAF Phase II competitive auction process by recently adopting the final auction procedures [Public Notice](#), an [Order on Reconsideration](#) addressing several outstanding issues, and the final (final) [eligible areas list](#).

Order on Reconsideration. The FCC addressed a number of outstanding issues in this order, but, in large part, stuck with its previous findings. The Commission did clarify that winning bidders will have an opportunity to revise the buildout obligations within a year of the auction should the carrier find actual locations differ materially from those identified in the auction (via the cost model).

Auction Procedures Public Notice. The auction is scheduled to begin July 24, 2018, and will consist of a multi-round reverse competitive auction that will assign support to, basically, the lowest bid (taking into account proposed speed and latency).

The next step in the process is completion of the short-form applications, due March 30, which establish the ability of potential bidders to participate in the auction (dubbed Auction 903). Some areas addressed in the short form application (Form 183) include: ownership disclosure, universal service rule compliance certification, states and eligible areas that will be bid upon, operational history, financial statements, and a statement of eligibility to bid for specific performance (i.e., speed) and latency combinations.

Final-final Eligible Areas List. The Wireline Competition Bureau released another final list of areas eligible for the CAF Phase II auction. This latest release removes "census block groups with a \$0 reserve price and census blocks that overlap certain rate-of-return carrier study area boundaries. Based on this revised list, 30,033 census block groups, containing a total of 210,647 eligible census blocks, will be available for bidding in Auction 903."

If companies are considering participation in Auction 903, these latest releases provide most of the information necessary. Still to come are training sessions covering the short form application and the actual auction/bidding system. In addition, a mock auction will be held as the July 24, 2018 starting date nears.

Please contact Zachary Cochran with any technical questions and Chris Barron with any auction process questions.



Alexicon at Work

Alexicon consultants are hard at work completing NECA forecasts for filing by next week. While the forecasts are in large part complete, there is always last minute details to handle prior to handing the information over to NECA.

Alexicon Travel

Doug Kitch is making yet another trip, next week, to Washington, D.C. to visit several congressional offices on Capitol Hill.



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