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Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

[Appeals Court to Hear Appeal](#)

A federal judicial panel said on Thursday that challenges to the Federal Communications Commission’s repeal of the Obama era open internet rules will be heard by an appeals court based in San Francisco. The U.S. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict litigation said it randomly selected the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court to hear the consolidated challenges. The FCC declined to comment on the decision.

[House Votes to Reauthorize FCC](#)

The House on [March 6] voted to reauthorize the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), passing bipartisan legislation that includes provisions aimed at boosting the development of 5G networks and new funds for the agency’s spectrum incentive auction. If the bill passes, it will be the first time Congress has approved a reauthorization for the FCC in 28 years.

[9th Circuit Affirms FTC Authority](#)

In an en banc decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has ruled that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) may regulate a common carrier’s non-common-carriage activity under the FTC Act, and thus affirmed a lower court ruling denying AT&T Mobility’s (AT&T) motion to dismiss an FTC unfair business practices lawsuit.

[NCTA: Focus on Google and Facebook](#)

Lawmakers shouldn’t be wasting their time with the “irrelevant” topic of net neutrality—or how the cable industry his lobbying group represents have recently benefited from the Republican-led FCC’s landmark rollback of net neutrality rules.

[Senate Dems Infrastructure Proposal](#)

Senate Democrats unveiled a \$1 trillion infrastructure plan Wednesday that would rollback the recently passed Republican tax cuts to pay for the improvements they argue are needed for the country.



Market Watch

[FirstNet Provides Progress Report](#)

[Rural Online Transactions Worth \\$1.4 trillion](#)

[Consolidated Ramps up Fiber Connected Towers](#)

[Cable Capex Still Peaking](#)



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Questions? Comments?
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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

How to Build a Data Driven Culture

Making business decisions based on the best available data is fundamental, but not always easy. Technology, processes, and company culture can all have an impact on how data is used within an organization. Digital leaders suggest organizations must focus on three key areas: strategy, culture, and agility, which was discussed at a recent event held by Adobe in London, alongside its recent Digital Trends 2018 report.

Charter Seeks 5G Test Authority

Charter Communications has not been shy about its intentions in 5G, and it's moving ahead with even more tests of fixed wireless in the 28 GHz band. The cable company is asking the FCC for Special Temporary Authority to advance its understanding of 5G technology and network potential in the millimeter wave bands. The application lists Ericsson as the manufacturer of 25 units to be tested.

ATSC 3.0 Marches On

March 5 marks the official launch of the new ATSC 3.0 next-gen broadcast transmission standard, at least in terms of the FCC's authorization of the new voluntary rollout. WRAL-TV Raleigh, N.C., a pioneering station in the delivery of next-generation TV has already kicked the tires on ATSC 3.0 with the a test last month providing the first Winter Olympics broadcast in 4K HD.

Cisco Battles IT Blind Spots

Cisco is taking its intent-based networking initiative to the WAN this week with the launch of two new technologies -- Cisco SD-WAN vAnalytics and Cisco Meraki Insight. In June, Cisco Systems Inc. (Nasdaq: CSCO) unveiled "The Network.Intuitive," its intent-based networking (IBN) plan to deliver automation to the entire network -- the campus, branch, data center and edge.

Has Alexa Snapped?

It was, of course, inevitable. "Alexa, this. Alexa, that." After a while, we all just knew Alexa was going to ... what was it that guy on Twitter said? "There's a good chance I get murdered tonight." Admit it. If you're one of the millions of Alexa owners, you've noticed some odd behaviors. If you're like my wife and me, you've probably, maybe even more than once, wondered just how long...



IN FOCUS:

Mobility Fund Phase II

The FCC recently moved forward with its Mobility Phase II Fund (MF II). MF II will make up to \$4.53 billion in support available over 10 years, with the purpose of deploying 4G LTE mobile broadband in areas where an unsubsidized carrier currently doesn't serve. The support will be awarded via a competitive reverse auction, similar to how CAF Phase II support will be determined.

Included in the MF II process is Tribal Mobility Phase II, which potentially could allocate around \$340 million over 10 years to Tribal areas for the purpose of mobile wireless broadband deployment.

Areas eligible for the MF II auction are those not currently served by an unsubsidized carrier at 4G LTE broadband speeds of at least 5/1 Mbps. Unlike CAF Phase II eligible areas, the MF II list is not based on Form 477 data and is instead based on signal propagation data filed by carriers in January 2018. The minimum area for bidding will be at the census tract or census block group level.

A [Public Notice](#) was released announcing the availability of the initial areas [map](#), and that the challenge window will open on March 29. The challenge process is to be used by interested parties, including Tribal governments, to present the FCC with information demonstrating that additional areas should be included in the auction.

The challenge process is outlined in a separate [Public Notice](#) released on February 27. In general, "mobile service providers and government entities (state, local, and Tribal)...may challenge areas that are deemed presumptively ineligible for MF-II support in the initial eligible areas map." According to the Public Notice, "A valid challenge must include evidence in the form of actual outdoor speed test data showing a lack of unsubsidized, qualified 4G LTE coverage."

As stated above, the challenge process begins March 29 and requires use of USAC's online challenge portal system. Entities challenging the eligible areas will have 150 days to complete their challenges. Once the USAC challenge portal has processed the challenges, the response window will open at least 30 days later and all responses are due 30 days after the challenge window opens.

The FCC expects to begin the auction shortly after the challenge process is complete. In the meantime, all information available on this process can be accessed [here](#).



Alexicon at Work

Conferences and Meetings

Zachary Cochran will attend the NECA Industry Meeting in Louisville, KY on March 14-16.

Chris Barron, Doug Kitch, Dion Nero and Rob Strait are attending the WTA Spring Conference in Destin, FL on March 18-21.



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Questions? Comments?

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