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# Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE  
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

## Regulatory Headlines

### States Help NTIA With Broadband Data

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration has begun the process of updating the National Broadband Map, which has received considerable criticism in recent months. The agency said it would work with eight states – California, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Tennessee, Utah and West Virginia — on an initial update.

### American Broadband Initiative

Various government agencies today announced a cross-government strategy to promote broadband deployment — the American Broadband Initiative (ABI). ABI includes streamlining the federal permitting process, leveraging Federal assets to lower the cost of build-outs and maximizing the impact of Federal funding.

### U.S. Lawmakers: 'These Maps are Bogus'

Members of Congress are fed up with the state of cellphone coverage in the United States, and on February 13, they weren't afraid to lodge their complaints personally — with the leaders of some of the country's biggest wireless networks.

### Wi-Fi Alliance: Modify 6 GHz Rules

For the most part, the Wi-Fi Alliance is stoked about the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in which the FCC is examining ways to make up to 1200 megahertz of spectrum available for use by unlicensed devices in the 6 GHz band (5.925-7.125 GHz).

### FCC: Digital Divide has Narrowed

The FCC's draft of its 2019 Broadband Deployment report (the so-called Sec. 706 report) says that the digital divide between the broadband haves and have-nots has narrowed "substantially" and that, as the FCC's broadband deployment report previously concluded under chairman Ajit Pai...



## Market Watch

[Fiber Deployment a National Imperative](#) (July 2017)

[Verizon to Launch 5G in 30 Cities This Year](#)

[Report on 4G and 5G Speed Performance](#)

[Virtual MVPDs: 10% of Pay TV Subscriptions](#)



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Questions? Comments?  
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# Technology Trends

*New and notable technology and services*

## IoT Devices Pose Bigger Risks

Security risks are increasing as more and more people connect using IoT devices. I talked with Danny Palmer about the threat facing consumers and businesses, the following is an edited transcript of our interview.

## YouTube: 35% of Global Mobile Traffic

Video has long been pegged as the biggest driver of global internet traffic, but in terms of mobile, one video service has risen high above the rest. According to Sandvine's new Mobile Phenomena report, YouTube accounts for 35% of all global mobile internet traffic. That puts the user-generated video platform far ahead of Netflix, which accounts for 15%. "Netflix does appear in the top 10 in most regions, but is not the driver it is on fixed networks. Netflix is streamed at lower resolutions on mobile networks and is more efficient than other video streaming services," wrote Sandvine in the report.

## 6 GHz Ideal for Next-Gen Tech

Given the success it's seeing with LAA, it's no wonder Qualcomm is pursuing a similar concept for 5G, asking the FCC to designate a portion of the 6 GHz band to serve as a playpen of sorts for slick new technologies that incorporate synchronization and unlicensed spectrum.

## 6 GHz Not Ready for Unlicensed Use

Broadcasters are telling the FCC its proposal to open up the 6 GHz spectrum for unlicensed wireless is not ready for prime time, and may never be. That came in comments from the National Association of Broadcasters on the FCC's October vote (it was unanimous) to open up 1,200 MHz of that midband spectrum for unlicensed use, including WiFi. Broadcasters use the band for auxiliary (BAS) operations--"sporting events, breaking news and special events" and says the FCC's proposed interference protections--limiting it to lower-power, indoor operations--miss the mark, particularly since some camera transmitters used to relay

## NY Telehealth Initiative

New York state officials are launching a "comprehensive telehealth initiative" aimed at improving access to perinatal care, particularly in rural parts of the state. The four-part program was unveiled this week by Gov. Andrew Cuomo as part of his 2019 Women's Justice Agenda. While the initiative is embedded in a markedly political effort designed to...



## IN FOCUS

### Study Area Boundary Data

**If an ILEC's study area boundaries have changed in the past year, the carrier must update the study area boundary data reported to the FCC. The deadline for making changes is March 15.**

In addition, all ILECs are required to recertify the accuracy of study area boundary data on file with the FCC on a biannual basis. The recertification requirement applies to individual carriers or state commissions, depending on who reported the original study area boundary data to the FCC. Also, if a state commission or carrier updated and certified boundary changes on or before March 15, 2019, then no further action is necessary this year.

The due date for this certification is currently unknown – we will let you know the exact date once the FCC issues a Public Notice.

For carriers performing the recertification, the first step is to review the data currently on-file, which is available [here](#). Once the data has been reviewed and confirmed to be accurate, then the recertification process can be started [here](#). If the data is not accurate, then for ILECs it should be corrected [here](#).

Accurate study area boundary data is vital given the emphasis the FCC and others are placing on broadband availability mapping and related information.

## Cutting Through the 5G Hype: Telco Survey

*(From McKinsey)*

Operators see a marginally positive business case, expect rollout at scale to take until 2022, and don't think the increase in capital-expenditure-to-sales ratio will be as big as skeptics claim.

For a technology that gets as much attention as 5G, we know precious little about what telco operators truly think about how it will play out for the industry and what they truly plan to do. Optimists tout the great benefits of low latency and high capacity that will eventually enable new value-added use cases, while pessimists focus on the lack of actual new use cases to emerge so far and what they see as a wobbly commercial rationale, not to mention the huge capital expense required.

To get a sense of what momentum there actually is toward building out 5G and realizing its potential, we recently conducted a proprietary survey of 46 chief technology officers (CTOs) directly engaged in 5G-development plans around the world.



## Alexicon at Work

Chris Barron will attend the WTA Policy and Planning Committee meeting March 5 and 6 in Washington, D.C. Topics sure to be covered include upcoming comments on the FCC's RoR USF Budget FNPRM, broadband performance testing, the status of the FCC's local rate floor, and various activity on Capitol Hill with the 116th Congress.



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Questions? Comments?

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