



- ▶ GOVERNMENT USING WRONG DATA
- ▶ **RUS E-CONNECTIVITY TOOLKIT**
- ▶ RUS RECONNECT DEADLINES EXTENDED
- ▶ **PAI ON 5G FUTURE IN RURAL AMERICA**
- ▶ LAWMAKERS EAGER FOR 5G BREAKTHROUGH
- ▶ **CTIA PRESSES FOR MORE 5G SPECTRUM** ...1

- ▶ SPRINT SUES AT&T OVER 5G BRANDING
- ▶ T-MOBILE PAY TV SERVICE LAUNCHING
- ▶ **UTILITIES, FIRMS FORM IOT ALLIANCE**
- ▶ DEALS DRIVING HIGHER VALUATIONS ...1

- ▶ ARE YOU READY FOR 5G
- ▶ **ZERO RATING—POISONING NET NEUTRALITY**
- ▶ NEW 5G BUSINESS MODELS
- ▶ **5G FUTURE DEPENDS ON WI-FI**
- ▶ TELEHEALTH CAN HELP RURAL HOSPITALS
- ▶ **THE NEXT TECH DISRUPTION IS COMING ...2**

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Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

Government Using Wrong Data

High-speed internet is not really available where the government says it is. And that misinformation means that a lot of Americans, especially those in poor and rural areas, can't get access to broadband — a service that is becoming more and more integral to daily life in the US.

RUS e-Connectivity Toolkit

In its ongoing effort to help develop broadband in rural communities, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced what it is calling an “e-connectivity toolkit” to help support connectivity.

RUS Reconnect Deadlines Extended

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the deadlines for applications for its Rural eConnectivity Pilot Program (ReConnect Program). The USDA said the deadlines for the program have been pushed back to no earlier than May 31 or later.

Pai on 5G Future in Rural America

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai addressed the NTCA -The Rural Broadband Association membership this week in New Orleans, offering wide-ranging views of important rural broadband policy matters. His remarks included reference to a 5G future that is very much about wires and not just wireless.

Lawmakers Eager for 5G Breakthrough

Lawmakers at an event Wednesday touted the potential benefits from emerging 5G technology but warned that Congress must act quickly in a bipartisan fashion before the U.S. falls behind.

CTIA Presses for More 5G Spectrum

The first full hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the 116th Congress was all about—wait for it—5G and spectrum. CTIA President and CEO Meredith Attwell Baker called it “fitting” in her written testimony.



Market Watch

[Sprint Sues AT&T Over 5G Branding](#)

[T-Mobile Pay TV Service Launching](#)

[Utilities, Tech Firms Form IoT Alliance](#)

[Deals Driving Higher Valuations](#)



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Questions? Comments?
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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

Zero Rating - Poisoning Net Neutrality

Net neutrality was killed in the US in 2017. One lie Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and their allies used to promote this was that people would benefit by having ISPs make some sites and services' data access free or cheaper. This concept is known as zero rating. With a zero-rating plan, you won't be charged for some data counting against your data cap when you use data for a particular service.

New 5G Business Models

There is one overriding question when examining the case for new 5G business models: is there an elephant in the room? It's the old fable of three blind people with the putative pachyderm, each describing quite different animals depending on whether they're at trunk, flank or tail. If 5G is that elephant, then operators and suppliers will see multiple sources of revenue while having just the one mouth to feed: if those use cases need very different networks, the benefits will look less elephantine.

5G Future Depends on Wi-Fi

Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America) President and CEO Shailen Bhatt told lawmakers (PDF) during a Senate committee hearing Wednesday that 5G has the potential to deliver a transportation system that is safer and more inclusive, but it was what he didn't say that raised the ire of the WifiForward group.

Telehealth Can Help Rural Hospitals

The American Hospital Association is calling on the federal government to boost telehealth and telemedicine opportunities – including better reimbursement, financial support for new technology and improved access to broadband – for the nation's struggling rural hospitals. "Rural hospitals are not just access points for care, they are cornerstones of care for the communities they serve," AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack said in a press release. "In spite of their unique challenges, providing access to quality care..."

Are You Ready for 5G

The fifth generation of wireless technology promises lightning-fast speed, incredibly low latency, and the capacity to carry massive numbers of connections simultaneously. Not surprisingly, the imminent arrival of 5G is creating a buzz in both the industry and the wider world.



IN FOCUS HUBB Filings Due March 1, 2019

For ETCs required to report broadband deployment efforts via USAC's High Cost Universal Broadband (HUBB) system, such filings must be complete by March 1, 2019. This year's filing covers locations meeting broadband speed obligations (i.e., 10/1 Mbps) deployed during 2018.

Filings are made via USAC's [E-File System](#), and include the latitude and longitude of locations where service is available. When the HUBB filing process was adopted, a group of carriers receiving CAF BLS that, at the time, had deployed 10/1 Mbps broadband to more than 80% of the service area had no reporting obligations. The upcoming 2019 filing does not change that rule.

The recent RoR Carrier USF Budget [Order](#) was recently published in the [Federal Register](#), and is thus generally effective March 8. This also means comments are due March 8 and replies are due April 8. In that order, the FCC revised buildout obligations to reflect 25/3 Mbps as the new standard and to recognize the increased level of support available. Eventually, newly deployed obligations (and those back to May 25, 2016 for carriers without previous HUBB reporting requirements) will be reportable in the HUBB system. However, given the timing of the Order and the fact that the new 25/3 Mbps deployment obligations are effective 1/1/19, the new obligations will be reportable in 2020.

The WCB should be releasing the new obligations in the coming weeks, along with the ACAM II offers of support.

The Next Technological Disruption is Coming

"What has happened in terms of technology in the last few decades will indeed drive us to a great period. And our challenge is to step up and deal with it rather than to run away from it. Because if you want to ask what made America great, it was the fact that we stepped up and confronted the challenges." ~ Tom Wheeler

There's a tweet that goes around occasionally that lists all the tech (mostly mobile-first) services that didn't exist 10 or 15 years ago. Here's an example.

The list is a marvelous snapshot of how products can scale like never before. But while in one way it's an unprecedented time in history, the past 15 years are far from the only time disruptive technologies have reshaped society.

Moreover, that tweet, like most tellings of history, tends to look only at the glory of inventions. Every great sea change also brings upheaval. Displaced are old systems, old ways of thinking and the livelihoods of people and communities. There is short-term pain, new and acute problems and a lot of opposition.



Alexicon at Work

Zach Cochran is a member of the NTCA Industry Committee's broadband mapping working group. The group is charged with reviewing the FCC Form 477, current mapping methods, and arriving at a reasonable way to solve current broadband location problems.

Several parties have provided proposals to the FCC, including AT&T (nationwide street addresses), ACA (road segments), and CostQuest (an overall location fabric method). Alexicon's GRID process will also be discussed.


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