ACA CONNECTS: KEY DEVELOPMENTS

ACA Connects To FCC: Underestimating Cable Operators’ Average Cost To Complete The C-Band Transition Neither Serves The Operators’ Nor The FCC’s Interests

The Federal Communications Commission heard from small, rural cable television providers that the agency’s recently proposed lump sum amounts would fall short of covering the transition costs of an average cable operator’s earth station that would continue to rely upon the C-band, and the FCC’s wholly new proposal that the C-band Relocation Clearinghouse would verify the technology upgrade needs of earth stations owned by cable operators is illicit under the FCC’s C-Band Order. ACA Connects explained that the FCC’s proposed actions would effectively make the lump sum option no option at all, which has the potential to undermine the agency’s aim to swiftly transition use of the C-band.

ACA Connects recommended in its comments filed on June 15 that the FCC re-work these two proposals and not reach a decision until it accounts for the final transition plans of the satellite operators, which are not due until August 14.

“ACA Connects supports the FCC’s plans to re-farm the C-band for 5G services, and appreciates the challenges it faces in doing all that’s necessary to be ready to hold an auction in December,” ACA Connects President and CEO Matthew M. Polka said.

“Throughout this lengthy proceeding, ACA Connects has sought to facilitate the FCC’s goals, including by providing detailed, verifiable information about the costs that cable operators will incur to transition their earth stations to new spectrum. The FCC’s proposed lump sum payments, however, ignore these facts. Moreover, it is unreasonable to make operators bear the risk that they will receive significantly less if the Relocation Clearinghouse does not validate their technology upgrade needs. In effect, what was a promising proposal will be whittled to little value if the FCC moves forward with its recent proposals. We urge the FCC to stick with the approach that was adopted by the full Commission in February.”

ACA CONNECTS FILING 6/15: FCC Comments re Expanding Flexible Use of the 3.7 to 4.2 GHz Band and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Seeks Comment on Optional Lump Sum Payments for 3.7-4.2 GHz Band Incumbent Earth Station Relocation Expenses

6/25: FCC Ex Parte re Expanding Flexible Use of the 3.7 to 4.2 GHz Band w/ Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
ACA CONNECTS: FILINGS

ACA Connects has been actively representing independent cable in many other ways and on many issues in Washington, D.C. Those efforts are described in the filings, letters, and testimonies linked below for your review:

6/29: FCC Reply Comments (w/ NCTA) re Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2020

6/19: FCC Ex Parte Letter (w/ Others) re Expanding Flexible Use of the 3.7-4.2 GHz Band (Clearinghouse Search Committee Q&A with Prospective RFP Respondents)

ACA CONNECTS: NEWS HEADLINES

Mediacom Announces Series Of Company Initiatives To Help Customers And Communities Recover From COVID-19 Crisis (Release, 6/24)
Mediacom Park, N.Y. -- Mediacom Communications announced the company is extending through the July and August billing cycles a series of previously announced initiatives directed at helping American families address work, education and health care challenges created by the Coronavirus pandemic. Specific initiatives include: Offering the Mediacom Connect2Compete low-cost Internet program free for 60 days to new qualifying families; extending the pricing of Mediacom’s Access Internet 60 service to new customers at $19.99 per month for 12 months (currently retails for $29.99 per month); pausing monthly data allowances across all Mediacom Internet service tiers; and providing complimentary access to all Mediacom Xtream Wi-Fi Hotspots.

Sparklight Extends Covid-19 Relief Efforts (Release, 6/24)
Sparklight announced that it will extend through the end of the year many of its relief measures that were set to expire on June 30, 2020, to support customers and communities in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. The company will continue to make available its 15 Mbps residential Internet plan for $10 per month for the first three months of service to help low-income families and those most impacted from coronavirus challenges, such as seniors and college students through December 31, 2020.

ImOn Continues Pledge To Keep Iowans Connected (Release, 6/30)
Cedar Rapids, Iowa – ImOn Communications announces it is continuing its commitment to keep customers and communities connected. ImOn signed the FCC’s Keep America Connected pledge in March 2020 promising to continue providing high quality broadband and telephone services and to keep customers who are financially challenged connected during the COVID 19 pandemic. While the FCC’s Keep America Connected pledge expires June 30, 2020, ImOn will continue to honor the elements of the pledge as long as there is a federal or state declaration of an emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grande Offers Free, Low-Cost Internet To In-Need Families (KRIS,6/26)
Corpus Christi, Texas -- As the COVID-19 pandemic infects more people in the Coastal Bend, self-isolation is necessary for some. Our homes have become our home-offices and our classrooms. Grande Communications recognized that, and wanted to help families in need. "Really, where we thought we could make an impact was with the more economically challenged families who may not always have Internet service at home," said Grande Communications’ Texas General Manager Michael Carrosquilla.

TDS Introduces Next-Gen TV Service: TDS TV+ (Release, 6/22)
TDS Telecom is bringing a new, state-of-the-art TV service to residents in south central and south eastern Wisconsin. TDS TV+ is a cloud-based offering that combines customers’ live TV, including local broadcast channels, regional sports content, and
national cable channels, with streaming services, like Netflix, On Demand, and apps through TV Everywhere. “TDS TV+ delivers the control features plus the content customers want -- all in one place,” says Shane West, senior vice president of Marketing, Sales and Customer Operations for TDS.

**PCMag Names GCI Alaska’s Fastest ISP Of 2020** *(Release, 6/23)*
Anchorage, Alaska - PCMag.com has, for the fifth-straight year, named GCI Alaska's fastest ISP! GCI set a new record in 2020, clocking in with a 134 PCMag Speed Index (PSI) score - a roughly 30 percent increase over last year. "It's an honor to be recognized as Alaska's fastest ISP for the fifth year running,' said GCI Chief Customer Experience Officer Maureen Moore.

**FCC Releases List Of RDOF-Eligible Locations** *(MCN, 6/25)*
FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said the FCC was releasing the list of locations eligible for the first $16 billion in Rural Digital Opportunities Fund (RDOF) money. That cat came out of the bag on an Internet Innovation Alliance webinar. Only minutes later, the list was issued.

### ACA CONNECTS: ACTION BRIEF TOP THREE

Most-Clicked Links From June 16 ACAAction Brief:
1. [Cedar Falls Utilities Is Fastest ISP In USA](https://www.pcmag.com) *(PCMag, 6/12)*
2. [Cable One Snaps Up ValueNet Fiber](https://www.lightreading.com) *(Light Reading, 6/11)*
3. [Ritter Completes $16 Million Fiber Investment](https://www.release.com) *(Release, 6/11)*

### ABOUT ACA CONNECTS

Across this vast country, small and rural markets participate in the digital revolution by receiving video, broadband, and phone services from more than 700 small and medium-sized independent operators represented by ACA Connects - America’s Communications Association.

ACA Connects' members -- cable, phone, and fiber-to-the-home operators and municipalities -- deliver affordable basic and advanced services to nearly 8 million households and businesses. ACA Connects members operate in every state, offering high-definition television, next generation Internet access, and digital phone service.

Access to advanced communications is not a luxury but a critical necessity for consumers and companies, schools and hospitals. America's economic prosperity in smaller markets and rural areas depends on the growth and success of ACA Connects members, who believe a connected nation, is a united nation.

ACA Connects asks lawmakers and regulators to ensure fair treatment so that small and medium-sized independent operators may continue to supply affordable video, broadband, and phone services to Main Street America. Through active participation in the policymaking process, ACA Connects members and leaders advocate for the interests of their customers, their companies, and their communities to help ensure the continued viability of their way of life in hometown America.

For more information, visit [www.acaconnects.org](http://www.acaconnects.org), or contact:

**Ross Lieberman, SVP Government Affairs**
202-494-5661 | rlieberman@acaconnects.org

**Ted Hearn, VP Communications**
202-713-0826 | thearn@acaconnects.org