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Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

[FCC: Huawei, ZTE Are Threats](#)

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) formally designated Chinese telecommunications groups Huawei and ZTE as national security threats, blocking them from accessing FCC funds.

[Congress Addresses FCC Pledge Costs](#)

The new Emergency Broadband Connections Act would provide \$50 per month to pay for broadband for workers who have been laid off or furloughed during the Covid-19 pandemic. [According to WISPA](#), the cost is \$32.700 per member.

[FCC: Fund Education Broadband](#)

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said he has asked Congress to increase funding for broadband in support of education, claiming that the agency has seen success with its Covid-19 Telehealth Program and could do the same with a program for remote learning. "I have asked Congress for authority and funding for a remote learning initiative like what we did for tele-health," Pai said.

[Supreme Court Upholds Robocall Ban](#)

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld a decades-old federal regulation that prohibits robocalls to cellphones and expanded the ban to include government debt-collection calls.

[CBRS Auction Bidders Announced](#)

More than 250 applicants have qualified to bid in Auction 105 of spectrum in the CBRS band, which is scheduled to start July 23. The full total of 271 qualified CBRS auction bidders includes all three nationwide wireless carriers AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon. Additional qualified bidders include cable companies such as Cox; Tier 2 telcos such as Frontier and Windstream...

[Line Count Filing Delayed](#)

The FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) on June 30, 2020 granted a brief, limited waiver of the deadline for rate-of-return carriers receiving Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) I and II or Alaska Plan support to file line count data.



Market Watch

[Windstream Chapter 11 Plan Gets Green Light](#)

[CenturyLink: Fiber Will Enable 5G](#)

[Verizon Takes Global 5G Speed Crown](#)

[Latest Fiber Network Deal](#)



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Questions? Comments?
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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

AT&T Enhances FirstNet in Northeast

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) and state officials announced a spate of coverage enhancements to the public-safety broadband network in the Northeast. Maryland, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Hampshire all made FirstNet coverage-related announcements this week. In Maryland, eight new cell sites were launched in Allegany, Calvert, Charles, Dorchester, Garrett, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's and Wicomico counties. This is the latest round of new FirstNet sites to be publicly announced following FirstNet sites announced in Baltimore and Tilghman Island last year.

Edge Computing in Rural Broadband Sector

As a new crop of data center operators focused on edge computing emerges, each one seems to have a bit different focus. For Dart Points, a company started in 2012, that focus is under-served areas, which include but are not limited to rural broadband markets, as DartPoints President and CEO Scott Willis and Chief Development Officer Loren Long explained...

9 Things 5G Can Do Now

The 3GPP – the standards group developing 5G – is expected to officially release its next big batch of technologies to the global wireless industry Friday. The action will essentially dump a bunch of new functionality into the 5G specification. However, don't expect anything to change immediately. Although the 3GPP's "Release 16" should now be available...

Nasty New Trend in Robocall Scams

Scum. Scummy. Scummy-scum. That's what I kept thinking as I started to put together this article. There are some people out there who are scum, scummy, scummy-scum. They use unfortunate events or unspeakable horrors as the foundation for scamming scared and vulnerable people out of their money. Now they've decided that COVID-19 is the new MacGuffin that they can use to rip people off. A recent survey was conducted by Provision Living showed that a full 20% of survey participants received at least one Covid-related call or text.

Huawei Not Banned In France

The head of the French cybersecurity agency ANSSI said there would not be a total ban on using equipment from Huawei in the rollout of the French 5G telecoms network, but that it was pushing French telcos to avoid switching to the Chinese company.

Britain's decision to grant Huawei a limited role in building its 5G network is not "fixed in stone" and a government update on the Chinese company will be published before July 22...



IN FOCUS

FCC to Address Mapping in July Meeting

The FCC announced it will address broadband data issues first raised in the Digital Opportunity Data Collection (DODC) Order and NPRM, and then made law in the Broadband DATA Act (the Act) in its July 16 open meeting. The FCC notes that the Broadband DATA Act conflicts with the DODC order, which includes not being able to use USAC to implement the Act's requirements. Since the FCC claims to not yet have funding to administer the new broadband mapping process, the draft order and FNPRM address issues over which the FCC has no discretion.

The draft item ([link](#)) includes a *2nd Report and Order* as well as a *3rd Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, the highlights of which are as follows.

The draft *2nd Report and Order* would adopt specific report and disclosure requirements for fixed and mobile broadband availability and quality of service data. According to the draft, *"all terrestrial fixed and satellite service providers must report either polygon shapefiles or lists of addresses or locations that constitute their service areas. We further require terrestrial fixed wireless providers to report either their shapefiles in the form of propagation maps and propagation model details that reflect the speeds and latency of their service, or a list of addresses or locations that reflect their service areas."*

In addition, providers submitting shapefiles or address lists must disclose the details of how that data was generated, which will include *"an explanation of the methodology or combination of methodologies used and how they implemented those methodologies, including the distances from aggregation points and drop distances used, to the*

extent relevant." Timing of reports will be the same as Form 477 (March 1 and September 1), and a public notice will be issued at least six months prior to the initial reporting due date.

The FCC also acknowledges the Act's requirement to create a broadband serviceable location dataset (the Fabric or BSLF). In the *2nd R&O*, the FCC will adopt the BSLF as proposed in the original DODC NPRM, to be defined as *"a single, nationwide fabric that will contain geocoded locations for all locations where a broadband connection can be installed."* The FCC then seeks input on a number of BSLF implementation issues in the *FNPRM*, and notes that while the Act calls for contracting with a GIS vendor to implement the BSLF, Congress has yet to appropriate any funding.

The FCC, pursuant to the Act, will adopt processes for verifying broadband availability data submitted by providers, including using USAC HUBB data, FCC audits, certifications, and crowdsourcing.

Additional input will also be sought via the *FNPRM* on reporting standards, the BSLF, and a challenge process for provider-reported coverage data.

We will distribute a detailed summary of the Report and Order and *FNPRM* once the items have been released by the FCC.



Alexicon at Work

July is the classic "busy season" for Alexicon as 2019 cost studies and 2020-1 High Cost Loop Support submissions and various certifications are due on the 31st.



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