



# NEWS

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**Federal Communications Commission**  
**445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.**  
**Washington, D. C. 20554**

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## **FCC ISSUES INQUIRY FOR ITS NINTH REPORT TO CONGRESS ON VIDEO COMPETITION**

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) initiated its ninth annual inquiry, as required by Congress, into the status of competition in the market for the delivery of video programming.

Today's *Notice of Inquiry* ("NOI") is designed to assist the FCC in gathering the information, data, and comments for the 2002 Competition Report. In the 2002 Competition Report, the FCC expects to report on changes in the competitive environment over the last year. The NOI seeks information that will allow the FCC to define the economic market for video programming, to evaluate the status of competition in the video marketplace, and to evaluate prospects for new entrants to that market. The NOI solicits information regarding the extent to which consumers have choices among video programming distributors and delivery technologies. In addition, the NOI asks for information that will allow it to compare video programming offerings, prices for programming services and associated equipment, and any other services offered by providers of video programming services such as programming in high definition format.

As in previous reports, the FCC seeks information regarding each of the video programming distributors, including the number of homes passed, the number of subscribers, the services offered, the cost for various service options, financial information on each industry, ownership information, and data on investments in plant and facility upgrades. The FCC also requests comment on industry and market structure and programming and technical issues.

Additionally, the FCC seeks information on the provision of high-speed Internet access services, telephony, video-on-demand, high definition television, and interactive television and on new ways of offering service (e.g., personal video recorders, streaming video). The FCC also seeks information on the extent to which programming distributors, both broadcast and non-broadcast programming services, are involved in the production of the programming they provide. In addition, the FCC seeks information regarding video programming providers' experiences offering closed captioning and video description.

Action by the Commission on June 13, 2002, by Notice of Inquiry (FCC 02-178). Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps and Martin.

CS Docket No. 02-145

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