

# 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. Cir. 1974).

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## **FCC TO ASSESS WHETHER BROADBAND NETWORKS ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL AMERICANS**

### *FCC Inquiry to Measure Deployment of Broadband Networks*

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) launched an inquiry into whether “advanced telecommunications capability,” or broadband, is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. As broadband networks become vital to the economy, healthcare, education, and other areas impacting the American public, the Notice of Inquiry (NOI) adopted today will analyze the various market, investment and technological trends of broadband deployment.

In the NOI adopted today, the FCC seeks information consistent with the framework utilized in past broadband reports, including: (i) how the Commission should define advanced telecommunications capability (ii) whether advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed to all Americans (iii) whether the current level of broadband deployment is reasonable and timely, and (iv) what actions, if any, can be taken to accelerate broadband deployment.

Additionally, extending its analysis beyond the framework of previous broadband reports, the FCC seeks to develop a factual record on:

1. Trends in other nations and how America’s deployment of advanced telecommunications capability affects its role in a global economy.
2. The availability of advanced telecommunications capability in different market segments and areas of varying densities.
3. The economic considerations that support the deployment of advanced telecommunications capability.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 directed the FCC to conduct regular inquiries concerning the availability of advanced telecommunications capability, and report its findings to Congress. Twice a year, the FCC gathers and publishes data about deployment of, and subscription to, high-speed and advanced services from facilities-based providers who have 250 or more high-speed service lines or wireless channels in service in a state, using FCC Form 477. At the request of carriers submitting Form 477, the FCC does not reveal individual company data.

As required by statute, the FCC will conclude this NOI and issue its report to Congress within 180 days.

-FCC-

Docket No.: WC 04-54

Action by the Commission March 11, 2004, by Notice of Inquiry (FCC 04-55).  
Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin, and Adelstein, with separate statements issued by Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, and Adelstein.

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