



NEWS

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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 ISSUES INQUIRY FOR ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON VIDEO COMPETITION

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today released a *Notice of Inquiry* for its Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, as required by Congress.

The *Notice of Inquiry*, which seeks comment and information on competition in the video programming market, is designed to assist the FCC with its annual Competition Report. In the 2005 Competition Report, the FCC expects to report on changes in the competitive environment over the last year. The *Notice* seeks information that will allow the FCC to evaluate the status of competition in the video marketplace, changes in the market since the 2004 Competition Report, prospects for new entrants to that market, factors that have facilitated or impeded competition, and the effect of competition on industry groups and most importantly, consumers. The Commission expects to send the 2005 Competition Report to Congress by the end of the year.

The *Notice* solicits comments and information on video distributors in the market for the delivery of video programming, including those using both wireline and wireless technologies. Video programming distributors include cable systems, direct broadcast satellite ("DBS") providers, large home satellite dish or C-Band dish ("C-Band") providers, broadband service providers ("BSPs"), private cable or satellite master antenna television ("PCO") systems, open video systems ("OVS"), multichannel multipoint distribution services or wireless cable systems ("wireless cable"), local exchange carrier ("LEC") systems, utility-operated systems, and over-the-air broadcast television stations.

The FCC seeks information on video programming distributed on videocassettes and DVDs through retail distribution outlets, and on video programming distributed over the Internet and via Internet Protocol (IP) networks. The *Notice* also requests information that will allow the FCC to evaluate horizontal concentration in the video marketplace, vertical integration between programming distributors and programming services, and other issues relating to the programming available to consumers. The *Notice* further asks for information on technical issues, including equipment and emerging services. Finally the *Notice* seeks comments regarding developments in foreign markets, as they may contribute to the FCC's understanding of domestic markets.

Action by the Commission August 9, 2005 by *Notice of Inquiry* (FCC 05-155). Chairman Martin, Commissioners Copps, Abernathy, and Adelstein. Separate statements issued by Commissioner Copps and Adelstein.

MB Docket No. 05-255

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