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|  | Federal Communications Commission  Washington, D.C. 20554 |

Nov 16, 2017

**VIA ECFS ELECTRONIC DELIVERY**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554  
  
Re: Measuring Broadband America Program (Fixed Collaborative), GN Docket No. 12-264  
  
Dear Ms. Dortch,  
  
Members of the Commission Staff met with representatives of broadband providers, public interest groups, companies, and other organizations on November 9, 2017 for a collaborative meeting to discuss issues pertaining to the fixed Measuring Broadband America (MBA) program.[[1]](#footnote-1)

After general introductions, Walter Johnston, Chief, EMCD/OET welcomed all the collaborative members and introduced Charlotte Wilson, Client Services Executive at SamKnows and Roxanne Robinson, global head of client services at SamKnows to present the agenda for the meeting.[[2]](#footnote-2) The following topics were discussed:

1. **2017 MBA Report update:** Mr. Johnston informed the collaborative that the 2017 MBA Report was currently under review by the Chairman’s office. Once the report is ready for release, as per the MBA policy, ISPs will be given a 3-5 day period to review the report and to raise any errors they may wish to have corrected in the report. Consistent with its policy, if FCC staff verify the errors the MBA Report will be corrected,. Mr. Johnston reminded everyone that the opportunity to review the report is only given to ISPs since they are most directly impacted by the report.
2. **2018 MBA Validation Period Measurement Update:** Ms. Wilson noted that as a result of the disruption of services during the hurricanes that affected Florida and Texas, SamKnows has decided to remove the dates of Sept 7- September 27 from the measurement period for the 2018 MBA Report. SamKnows proposed using the following 30-day period for validation purposes:

* September 1 to September 6 inclusive
* September 28 to October 21 inclusive

Mr. Johnston discussed that he had been recently approached by Comcast about some possible anomalies in the data collected during the month of September. The MBA team has just started investigating this and will present its findings in the next collaborative meeting. As a precaution, Mr. Johnston has requested. SamKnows to extend the data collection and validation period into the first two weeks of November. This should provide a buffer in case more days will have to be removed from September/October for validation due to problems with collecting accurate measurement data.

1. **Post Validation:** Ms. Wilson informed the collaborative that once the validation period is completed (i.e., around 15 November) SamKnows would be sending out post validation spreadsheets to all the ISPs. This spreadsheet would be containing a list of all the panelists on the MBA program for the ISP, along with their assumed download and upload speed tiers. She requested the ISPs to check if these speed tiers were accurate and to send back their responses back to SamKnows within two weeks.
2. **Automated Validations Update:** SamKnows work on automating the validation process had been on hold due to the efforts in collecting data for the 2018 MBA Report. With the data collection almost completed, Ms. Robinson promised to get in touch with the ISPs in the next few weeks in order to continue work on automating their validation processes. So far one ISP had very nearly completed its automated validation process. SamKnows expects to finalize the automated validation process for a large number of ISPs by the middle of 2018.
3. **Other Business:** Mr. Johnston informed the collaborative that for next year’s data collection, work was currently underway to increase the number of panelists for each tier. This was being done to create a more robust sample set and to improve the statistical validity of the MBA measurements. Mr. Johnston promised to keep the collaboration apprised of these and any other changes that may be made to the sample set.

Mr. Johnston concluded the meeting by thanking all the attendees for their active participation.

Sincerely,  
  
/s/ Rajender Razdan  
  
Rajender Razdan, Electronics Engineer,  
Electromagnetic Compatibility Division/OET  
Federal Communications Commission

1. A list of attendees is attached to this filing in GN Docket No. 12-264. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. SamKnows presentation is attached to this filing in GN Docket No. 12-264. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)