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

November 3, 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 October 12, 2017 for a collaborative meeting to continue discussions 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 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 had been completed and was going through initial stages of review within the OET. Once that was completed the report would be sent to the Chairman’s office for final review.
2. **2018 MBA Validation Period Measurement Update:** At the previous meeting it had been stated that SamKnows along with FCC staff members planned to carefully examine the impact of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma on performance measurements for panelists in the affected states of Texas and Florida. Mr. Sam Crawford, CTO of SamKnows presented data regarding the count of whiteboxes in Texas and Florida that were operational before, during and after the hurricanes as well as before, during and after the introduction of Apple’s iOS 11. The results showed that there was no impact of either Hurricane Harvey or the iOS 11 launch on the whitebox performance for the panelists in Texas. However, in the case of Florida, Hurricane Irma did affect a significant number of whiteboxes. There was a precipitous drop in operation of about 50 whiteboxes out of about 120 during the first few days of hurricane Irma. However, most of these recovered even before hurricane Irma ended. With the exception of one whitebox all the degraded whiteboxes recovered within a few days to their pre-hurricane performance. SamKnows suggested that the period between 10-24 September could be removed to account for the degraded performance of whiteboxes in the Florida area. A question was asked whether this set of dates would apply only to whiteboxes in Florida. Mr. Johnston explained that the MBA policy was that in the event of a problem in the data collection infrastructure, all the data is excluded from the MBA report for the time period of that problem even if problem were known to have occurred only in specific localized region. While the expectation is that there should be no problem in compiling 30 days of non-degraded service during September and October, just as a precaution, SamKnows plans to continue its data collection period into November as well. The exact dates for the validation period will be presented to the collaborative at the next meeting
3. **Automated Validation update:** Due to the focus given to validating the data for the September and October months SamKnows has not been able to do much work in these months with respect to automated validation of ISP tiers. SamKnows will continue to have discussions with three of the interested ISPs to automate their validation processes. Ms. Wilson noted that SamKnows is working one-on-one with each of these service providers since they all have different management procedures, SamKnows expects to finalize the automated validation process by the middle of 2018.
4. **Other Issues:** Mr. Jim Partridge (NCTA) asked if SamKnows had stopped collecting data from panelists who continue to use legacy equipment despite efforts by the ISPs to migrate them to higher-speed equipment. Ms. Robinson explained that while SamKnows continues to collect data from such panelists, it would not be using this data for the MBA report. SamKnows has sent emails to these panelists asking them to upgrade their equipment and letting them know that their results will be removed from the MBA report if they don’t upgrade. Eventually SamKnows will remove these panelists if they refuse to make the upgrades. Mr. Partridge also enquired about whether the MBA policy on deletion of tiers had been concretized. Mr. Johnston said that a final decision had not yet been made on this issue.

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)