

Liberty Media's John Malone has been very public about his desire to further consolidate the U.S. cable industry. Malone who is a key investor in Charter Communications wants to see the U.S. cable broadband industry further concentrated into the hands of only 2 or 3 big companies. Buying Time Warner Cable or Bright House Networks alone would not enable Charter to achieve the scale that he wants them to have. Acquiring both though makes them a much more dominant player and leaves consumers at a national level with fewer choices in broadband and pay TV providers. Today there are at least 5 or 6 major cable companies Comcast, Time Warner Cable, Cox Communications, Charter Communications, Bright House Networks. New Charter would concentrate the market down to 3 or 4 big companies – Comcast, New Charter, and Cox Communications. Smaller cable companies like Cablevision would remain in business for the time being at least up until one of the new top 3 companies decides to put a smaller competitor out of business.

It's recently been reported that cable's Darth Vader – John Malone has in Puerto Rico been able to erect a cable monopoly – with Liberty Global acquiring Choice Cable. If left unchecked Malone and his cronies will always win. Liberty is now Puerto Rico's largest cable company passing more than 1 million homes and serving 750,000 consumers.

Per StoptheCap.com:

Liberty put \$267.5 million of the purchase on its credit card, using debt borrowing from another Malone-controlled entity — Liberty Cablevision — to fund most of the deal. Liberty Global contributed just \$10.2 million in equity and its partner Searchlight kicked in \$6.8 million in equity.

The deal gives Malone's company a total cable monopoly on the island. Choice Cable was the last standing cable operator not owned by Liberty, and served customers in western, southern, and central Puerto Rico. Choice itself consolidated several independent cable operators, including Cable TV

Northwest (Aguadilla), Dom's Cable TV (San Germán), Cablevision Mayaguez and TelePonce Cable TV. Now it has been consolidated itself.

According to Liberty Global, the combined cable company will be expected to generate at least \$390 million in annual revenue. If it doesn't, rate increases could be on the way. Channel changes have already been introduced.