



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 5, 2016

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:

On March 10, 2016, SamKnows, representatives of fixed broadband providers and other interested parties met in person and via conference call with Commission staff to discuss ongoing analysis of data collection measurements for the fixed Measuring Broadband America (MBA) program.¹ Walter Johnston, Chief Electromagnetic Compatibility Division (EMCD) welcomed collaborative members in attendance and on the teleconference bridge and introduced Roxanne Robinson and Alex Salter of SamKnows who presented slides for the meeting².

In response to the feedback from the MBA collaborative, SamKnows has developed a server monitoring tool that can be used by all stakeholders to review the health of the MBA server platform. This tool creates a dashboard that presents real time data on the status of the server

¹ A list of attendees is attached to this filing in GN Docket No. 12-264.

² SamKnows Slide presentation for the meeting is attached to this filing in GN Docket No. 12-264.

platform as well as providing detailed level of information should any problems with any of the server platforms arise. Thresholds are currently being defined by SamKnows, with help from Level 3 and M-Labs, to determine what triggers and thresholds should be used for the server platform to be considered degraded. Ms. Robinson provided a mock-up of the proposed server status pages that viewers of the dashboard would see. The dashboard shows all the servers in the MBA platform and highlights (in red) which of those servers may have issues. When expanded, specific details of the issue as well as its severity level are presented. The FCC is soliciting input from the ISPs on ways to improve the MBA platform monitoring tool. Mr. Johnston asked Mr. Jim Partridge (NCTA) if he would be willing to assemble a small number of interested engineers from the collaborative to work jointly with SamKnows on further developing the MBA platform monitoring tool. Mr. Partridge kindly agreed to do so.

Ms. Robinson also presented the key dates for 2016 MBA Report and the key validation process deadlines for the September 2016 reporting month (i.e., for the 2017 MBA Report). Ms. Robinson reminded the ISPs that they should send SamKnows their up-to-date subscriber data and market share for each of their advertised tiers, by no later than May 2, 2016.

After the update on the MBA project plan, Mr. Johnston introduced Padma Krishnaswamy (EMCD) who provided an overview of the MBA Assisted Research Studies (MARS)³. Ms. Krishnaswamy explained that the MARS work was aimed at providing the use of the MBA test infrastructure to interested researchers for performing new experiments or collecting more fine-grained data than is currently done with the MBA effort. Ms. Krishnaswamy also presented the process by which a MARS project gets approval, which involves, amongst other things, signing a code of conduct guideline and defining a project management proposal to the Broadband collaborative. As an example, Ms. Krishnaswamy described one such project, i.e. the NAT Revalio project by CAIDA, which involves the calibration of the NAT 444 detection. This project had been introduced to the collaborative at the Dec. 15, 2015 meeting. Ms. Ramaswamy described the current status of this project which had progressed to the point that timelines had been established and the work on collecting the data had just started. Ms. Krishnaswamy will be providing updates on this project to the collaborative in future meetings.

³ Slide presentation on the MARS status update for the meeting is attached to this filing in GN Docket No. 12-264.

Mr. Johnston concluded by thanking all the attendees for their active participation and noting that the next meeting of the collaborative was scheduled for April 7, 2016.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rajender Razdan

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