



NATIONAL CABLE & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

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WILLIAM A. CHECK, PH.D. VICE PRESIDENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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December 26, 2001

Ms. Magalie R. Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Compatibility Between Cable Systems And Consumer Electronics Equipment PP Docket No. 00-67

Pursuant to the Commission's Report and Order ("R&O") in the above captioned proceeding, and on behalf of the National Cable & Telecommunications Association ("NCTA"), I am submitting an update to the third progress report called for in the R&O which we submitted on October 31, 2001. Among other things, in our October 31, 2001 submission we reported on the status of the technical specifications which would allow Digital Television ("DTV") sets to be connected directly to digital cable systems and the status of the CableLabs OpenCable Application Platform ("OCAP") specification. This letter reports on developments in those two efforts since the filing of our previous report.

On November 27, 2001, the Engineering Committee of the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers ("SCTE") unanimously approved the Digital Cable Network Interface Standard which implements the technical agreement reached by NCTA and the Consumer Electronics Association on February 22, 2000. That standard defines the characteristics and normative specifications for the network interface between a cable television system and commercially-available consumer equipment that is used to access multichannel video programming. The interface is also compatible with existing set-top terminal equipment deployed by cable operators and with terminal equipment developed using the OpenCable specifications. This standard, formerly DVS/313, is now denominated SCTE 40 2001 and is available on the SCTE website (www.scte.org).

At the same time, SCTE's Engineering Committee also unanimously approved two related standards: (1) SCTE 28 2001 (formerly DVS/295), the Host-POD Interface Standard, which defines the characteristics and normative specifications for the interface between the Point-of-Deployment ("POD") separate security modules owned and distributed by cable operators and OpenCable-compliant subscriber equipment, including set-top boxes and other customer electronic devices ("host devices"), that are used to access multichannel video programming carried on cable systems; and (2) SCTE 41 2001 (formerly DVS/301), the POD Copy Protection Standard, which defines the characteristics and normative specifications for the system that prevents the unrestricted copying of high value content as it crosses the POD-Host interface.

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As we stated in our October 31, 2001 report, the cable industry was working with dispatch to finish the OpenCable Application Platform ("OCAP") specification which includes a set of Application Programming Interfaces ("APIs"). We are pleased to report that the CableLabs OCAP specification – OCAP 1.0 – has been completed and was published on the OpenCable website (www.opencable.com) on December 21, 2001.

As evidence of the industry's commitment to OCAP, I am attaching to this submission a letter from leading multiple system operators to Dr. Richard Green, Chief Executive Officer of CableLabs, describing their intentions to implement the OCAP specification in their systems so that those systems will support CableLabs-certified, OCAP-enabled devices once such equipment becomes commercially available.

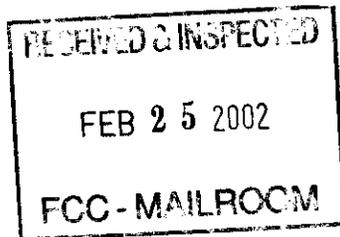
We believe these recent developments further demonstrate the leading role the cable industry is taking to facilitate both the digital transition and the retail availability of navigation devices. If you have any questions about these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



William A. Check, Ph.D.
Vice President, Science and Technology

cc: Chairman Michael K. Powell
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
W. Kenneth Ferree, Chief, Cable Services Bureau
Tom Horan, Legal Advisor to Chief, Cable Services Bureau
Paul Gallant, Special Advisor, Cable Services Bureau
William Johnson, Deputy Chief, Cable Services Bureau
Deborah Klein, Division Chief, Consumer Protection and Competition Division, CSB
Steve Broeckhart, Deputy Chief, Consumer Protection and Competition Division, CSB
John Wong, Division Chief, Engineering and Technical Services Division, CSB
Michael Lance, Deputy Chief, Engineering and Technical Services Division, CSB
Robert Pepper, Chief, Office of Plans and Policy
Amy Nathan, Senior Legal Counsel, Office of Plans and Policy
Jonathan Levy, Deputy Chief Economist, Office of Plans and Policy
Bruce Franca, Acting Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology
Rick Chessen, Associate Bureau Chief (Law), Mass Media Bureau



December 21, 2001

Richard R. Green
President and Chief Executive Officer
Cable Television Laboratories, Inc.
400 Centennial Parkway
Louisville, Colorado 80027-1266

Dear Dick:

In meetings at the FCC, you have been asked how the cable industry intends to carry out its commitment to implement CableLabs Open Cable Applications Platform (OCAP) middleware. With our support, CableLabs has developed specifications for OCAP middleware, which will operate in home devices to permit downloading and execution of applications, such as program guides, that we will provide to our subscribers.

By this letter, we express our intention to take all reasonable steps so that our systems will support CableLabs-certified, OCAP-enabled devices once such equipment becomes commercially available. This commitment includes CableLabs-certified set-top boxes, integrated digital TV (DTV) receivers and other OCAP-enabled devices.

These devices, with appropriate capability, can provide the services we make available to our customers using the set-tops we lease. By being commercially available, these devices will advance Congress's goal to permit a cable customer to purchase equipment, including integrated DTV receivers, instead of leasing a set-top box from the operator in order to receive the services the operator provides.

This commitment is a follow-on from industry-wide commitments to support the interoperability of our systems with devices compliant with the OpenCable specifications adopted prior to adoption of the OCAP specifications. Those devices, which include an OpenCable compliant point-of-deployment (POD)-Host interface, may be made available at retail, are portable, and function on our upgraded digital systems.

The commitment embodied in this letter takes the process of retail availability of navigation devices to the next level, to include CableLabs-certified, OCAP-enabled devices. We trust it will provide you with a more specific commitment from the undersigned companies in communicating the cable industry's position at the FCC regarding these OCAP-enabled devices.

Richard R. Green
December 21, 2001

Page Two

Sincerely,

/s/ James Rigas

James Rigas, Exec. Vice President
Adelphia Cable Communications Corp.

/s/ William Schleyer

William Schleyer, President and CEO
AT&T Broadband

/s/ Carl Vogel

Carl Vogel, President and CEO
Charter Communications, Inc.

/s/ Brian Roberts

Brian Roberts, President
Comcast Corporation

/s/ James Robbins

James Robbins, President and CEO
Cox Communications, Inc.

/s/ Robert Miron

Robert Miron, President
Advance/Newhouse Communications

/s/ Joseph Collins

Joseph Collins, Chairman and CEO
AOL Time Warner Interactive Video

/s/ Scott Chambers

Scott Chambers, President
Chambers Communications Corp.

/s/ Glenn Britt

Glenn Britt, Chairman and CEO
Time Warner Cable

Sincerely,

James P. Myers
for Adelphia Communications Corp.

for AT&T Broadband

for Charter Communications

for Comcast Corporation

for Cox Communications, Inc.

for Advance/Newhouse Communications

for AOL Time Warner Interactive Video

for Chambers Communications

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for Charter Communications

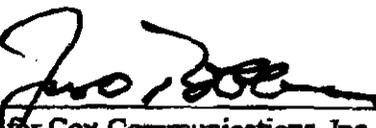
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for Charter Communications

for Comcast Corporation



for Cox Communications, Inc.

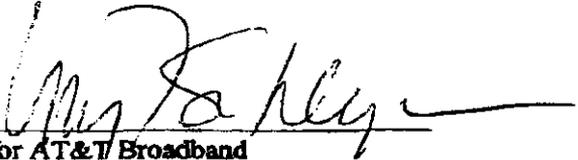
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for Advance/Newhouse Communications

for AOL Time Warner Interactive Video

for Chambers Communications

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for AT&T Broadband

for Charter Communications

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for Comcast Corporation

for Cox Communications, Inc.

for Advance/Newhouse Communications

for AOL Time Warner Interactive Video

for Chambers Communications

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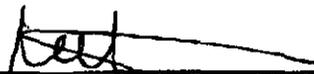
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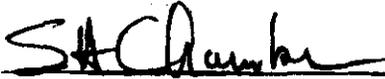
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for Chambers Communications