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April 8, 2006

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Presentation in MB Docket No. 05-192, Applications for Consent to the Assignment and/or Transfer of Control of Licenses, Adelphia Communications Corp., Assignors, to Time Warner Cable Inc., Assignees; Adelphia Communications Corp., Assignors and Transferors, to Comcast Corporation, Assignees and Transferees; Comcast Corporation, Transferor, to Time Warner Inc., Transferee; Time Warner Inc., Transferor, to Comcast Corporation, Transferee

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Time Warner Inc. (“Time Warner”) hereby provides its redacted response to the *ex parte* presentations filed on March 15, 2006 and March 27, 2006 by DIRECTV, Inc. (“DirecTV”) relating to documents produced by Time Warner with respect to certain regional sports networks (“RSNs”) that have either just recently commenced operations (SportsNet New York (“SNY”) and SportsTime Ohio (“STO”)) or have discontinued operations (Carolinas Sports and Entertainment Television (“C-SET”)). As some of the information submitted with the response contains “Highly Confidential” and “Confidential” information, such information was only included in the unredacted version of this letter which was submitted under seal and under separate cover according to the terms of the First and Second Protective Orders in this proceeding. This redacted version of the letter, with the protected information redacted, is hereby submitted into the public record pursuant to those orders.

DirecTV’s latest filings are a re-hash of the same discredited arguments that Time Warner and Comcast Corporation (collectively, the “Applicants”) have thoroughly refuted on numerous occasions¹ -- and which DirecTV trots out yet again in its filing of April 3, 2006.

¹ See, e.g., letter from Arthur H. Harding, Counsel for Time Warner Inc., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (Mar. 2, 2006) (“Time Warner March 2 Letter”); letter from Arthur H. Harding, Counsel for Time Warner Inc., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (Mar. 3, 2006); letter from James R. Coltharp, Chief Policy Advisor for Comcast Corporation, to Marlene H. Dortch,

**SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER AND SECOND
PROTECTIVE ORDER IN MB DOCKET NO. 05-192
BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

Despite its efforts to distort the plain language in documents submitted by the Applicants on the record in this proceeding relating to the Adelphia-Time Warner-Comcast transactions (the “Transactions”), DirecTV has failed to identify any transaction-specific harm relating to RSNs that warrants Commission attention.

Before turning to DirecTV’s arguments, it is important that the record be updated to reflect important facts that DirecTV neglected to mention in its April 3rd filing -- on that very same day DirecTV entered into affiliation agreements with both SNY and STO.² This development serves to undermine DirecTV’s claims that the Applicants -- who hold no ownership in STO and do not control SNY -- would nevertheless somehow be able to coerce the Indians and the Mets into “withholding” this programming from DirecTV or establishing a “uniform” excessive license fee that would force DirecTV to raise its rates to all of its customers due to its “national pricing structure.”³

1. SNY – NEW YORK METS

A. Net Effective Rate

Time Warner has produced voluminous documentation supporting the fact that the “Net Effective Rate” provision in the SNY LLC Agreement is nothing more than an “exit” mechanism -- a standard provision in programming and other joint ventures among unrelated parties. Notwithstanding the clear contractual language, DirecTV persists in its specious claim that this provision is designed to provide an “expected price advantage over MVPD rivals.”⁴ There is absolutely no support in the record or in common logic for DirecTV’s allegation.

The formula for determining the “Net Effective Rate” is based on the license fees paid by the Applicants themselves, minus any amounts returned to Applicants as profits.⁵ Given its ownership affiliation with Fox Cable Networks (“FCN”) (by its own acknowledgement, the custodian for over half of the nation’s MLB, NBA and NHL RSN programming),⁶ DirecTV

Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (Mar. 15, 2006) (“Comcast March 15 Letter”); letter from Martha E. Heller, Counsel for Comcast Corporation, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (Mar. 24, 2006) (“Comcast March 24 Letter”).

² Copies of the Press Releases issued by the Cleveland Indians and SNY are attached.

³ Letter from Stacy R. Fuller to Commissioner Deborah Tate, March 8, 2006.

⁴ Letter from William M. Wiltshire, Counsel for DirecTV, Inc., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, p. 3 (Mar. 15, 2006) (“DirecTV March 15 Letter”).

⁵ [REDACTED]

⁶ “Fox Cable Networks to Acquire Turner South,” News Corporation Press Release, Feb. 23, 2006, *available at*: http://www.newscorp.com/news/news_278.html (stating that “[w]ith the addition of Turner South’s long-term local telecast rights to MLB’s Atlanta Braves, NBA’s Atlanta Hawks and the NHL’s Atlanta Thrashers, FCN owned-and-operated regional networks are the primary local television partners to more than half (44) of all U.S.-based MLB, NBA and NHL franchises”).

should readily understand that the license fee is but one of many factors that contribute to an RSN's profitability. What DirecTV apparently fails to understand, or admit, is that if the license fee is set at a level such that a significant number of MVPDs elect not to distribute the service, profitability will be adversely affected and the likelihood that the Applicants could trigger the exit mechanism is increased.

Moreover, while DirecTV's argument assumes that the "Net Effective Rate" provision creates an incentive for the Mets to seek to increase the profitability of SNY, it offers no explanation as to why the Mets would not have the same incentive to maximize profits independent of the "Net Effective Rate" provision. In short, there is no basis for DirecTV's presumption that the "Net Effective Rate" provision will cause the license fee charged to any distributor to be higher than it otherwise would be. The fairness of the license fee established by SNY is further demonstrated by the fact that it is below that charged for the competing YES Network in the same footprint while carrying college sports programming in addition to the Mets, as well as the fact that SNY has entered into affiliation agreements not only with DirecTV, but also with both Cablevision and Verizon -- companies that have not been shy about fighting carriage terms that they feel are unreasonable.⁷

B. Partial RSN Ownership

The "Net Effective Rate" formula also is fundamentally at odds with DirecTV's fanciful "foreclosure" theory. According to DirecTV, a vertically-integrated MVPD/RSN combination might be willing to sacrifice profitability of the RSN (by withholding the programming from rival MVPDs through exclusivity or unreasonable license fees) in return for anticipated increased MVPD profits (as subscribers of the rival MVPD "switch" in order to receive "must-have" programming).⁸

The "Net Effective Rate" clause focused on by DirecTV is based on the profitability of the RSN, not the profitability of the MVPD. Thus, the clause has precisely the opposite effect claimed by DirecTV -- it serves to ensure that the RSN offers fair license fees, achieves wide distribution, and thus is sufficiently profitable to avoid triggering the exit mechanism. Nevertheless, DirecTV clings to its illogical notion that the Applicants, as minority owners of SNY, would be able to persuade the Mets, as majority owner, to establish rates that would cause

⁷ Mike Reynolds, "Cablevision, SNY Strike a Long-Term Deal," Multichannel News, Mar. 27, 2006, p. 12; "Cablevision, SportsNet New York Announce Carriage Agreement," Mar. 23, 2006, *available at*: <http://www.sny.tv/article.jsp?content=pr20060322>; Rebecca Stropoli, "SportsNet NY, Verizon Enter Carriage Agreement," Broadcasting & Cable, Mar. 22, 2006, *available at*: <http://www.broadcastingcable.com/article/CA6318049.html?display=Breaking+News>; "SportsNet New York Reaches Carriage Agreement with Verizon," Mar. 22, 2006, *available at*: <http://www.sny.tv/article.jsp?content=pr20060322>. *See also* Linda Haugsted, "Verizon Files with FCC vs. Cablevision," Multichannel News, Mar. 21, 2006, *available at* <http://www.multichannel.com/article/CA6317573.html?display=Breaking+News>.

⁸ *See* DirecTV March 15 Letter at 2-5; letter from William M. Wiltshire, Counsel for DirecTV, Inc., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, p. 6-8 (Mar. 27, 2006) ("DirecTV March 27 Letter").

it to forego revenues from DirecTV or other distributors so long as the Applicants (but not the Mets) might recoup a fraction of those lost amounts from increased revenues derived by their MVPD operations. [REDACTED].⁹

C. Lack of Transaction-Specific Impact

Even if this counter-intuitive scenario had any credibility, the fact remains that there could be no transaction-specific impact regarding SNY -- Time Warner will acquire no subscribers within the primary distribution zone for SNY, and the subscribers acquired by Time Warner in the Transactions will increase coverage of the television households in the entire footprint of SNY only by approximately [REDACTED].¹⁰ In any event, as shown above, the license fee established by SNY is entirely reasonable and nondiscriminatory.

DirecTV's March 27th filing seeks to make much of the fact that Time Warner engaged in a careful financial analysis of its projected return before agreeing to invest [REDACTED] for a non-controlling, minority stake in SNY.¹¹ What is notable, however, is the fact that nothing in Time Warner's financial analysis suggests any connection between these Transactions and Time Warner's assessments regarding the SNY venture. Rather, Time Warner's analysis expresses considerable concern that potential profitability [REDACTED].¹²

Indeed, the fact that Time Warner never contemplated implementation of the "foreclosure" or "unilateral price increase" strategies hypothesized by DirecTV is evidenced not only by the lack of any discussion of such in Time Warner's financial analysis, but also by the express recognition in that analysis that [REDACTED].¹³ Overall, the financial analysis cited by DirecTV simply confirms that Time Warner's concern was that SNY achieve wide distribution and profitability, not that it withhold games from competing MVPDs in the hope that some customers might switch to Time Warner.

Finally, it should hardly be surprising that Time Warner's investment analysis sought to take into account both the amounts that it would pay to SNY as license fees and the potential returns on Time Warner's equity investment should the venture realize a profit.¹⁴ Any prudent business would do no less. At bottom, the gist of DirecTV's argument is that it is somehow

⁹ [REDACTED]

¹⁰ Thus, DirecTV's claim that the Applicants "cannot deny that the transactions will significantly increase the Applicants'" presence in the SNY footprint is false. See DirecTV April 3 letter at 8. In fact, any subscriber increase in the SNY footprint resulting from the Transactions will be *de minimis*.

¹¹ DirecTV March 27 Letter at 7-8.

¹² [REDACTED]

¹³ [REDACTED]

¹⁴ Indeed, when read as a whole (not just the portion selectively quoted by DirecTV), it is clear that Time Warner's analysis at the time it entered into the SNY venture used a "net effective rate" computation to evaluate the potential economic value of the investment, not as a measure of the ability to "raise rivals costs." [REDACTED]

“unfair” for an MVPD to make an equity investment in an RSN, because if the RSN is profitable, the MVPD holding the equity investment will end up paying a “net effective rate” for the RSN programming that is less than the rate paid by competing MVPDs. DirecTV’s argument is highly ironic given that DirecTV is the principal beneficiary of any such below-market net effective rates for RSN programming in light of FCN’s control over more than half of all MLB, NBA and NHL RSN programming.¹⁵ The notion that investors of risk capital should not be allowed to derive the rewards of a successful investment is also fundamentally at odds with a capitalist economy. In any event, if DirecTV has identified a problem that requires investigation -- and we believe it has not -- it would be a matter of industry-wide significance and not a transaction-specific issue to be addressed in this proceeding.

2. STO – CLEVELAND INDIANS

A. Option and Sales Agreements

Consistent with its position throughout this proceeding, DirecTV seeks to conjure up a parade of anticompetitive horrors from the most common and straightforward commercial arrangements, pointing to an Option Agreement and Sales Agreement that DirecTV claims make a “uniform overcharging possible.”¹⁶ The Option Agreement is entirely irrelevant. An option does not convey an attributable interest unless and until exercised,¹⁷ and of course creates no incentive for Time Warner to enrich the owners of the Cleveland Indians by overpaying for STO programming.¹⁸ Even more significantly, the Option Agreement establishes a one-time opportunity, exercisable at a fixed amount and only within a narrow [REDACTED] window after the completion of the [REDACTED] baseball season of STO’s operation,¹⁹ hardly sufficient time for the value of the RSN to achieve any “long-term appreciation” as speculated by DirecTV.²⁰

The Sales Agreement, far from creating some nefarious mechanism for “side payments” from the Indians to Time Warner, simply allows Time Warner to earn commissions based on its success in selling commercial spots -- the consideration payable to Time Warner is directly

¹⁵ See n. 6, supra.

¹⁶ DirecTV March 15 Letter at 7.

¹⁷ See, e.g., 47 C.F.R. § 76.501, Note 2(e).

¹⁸ As with SNY, the reasonableness of the license fee set by STO is confirmed by the numerous MVPDs -- including DirecTV itself, EchoStar, telephone companies and overbuilders -- that have already entered into affiliation agreements with this new RSN. See “SportsTime Ohio Finalizes Broadcast Agreements With WOW!, GLW Broadband, Massillon Cable and Clear Picture,” Mar. 27, 2006, available at: http://cleveland.indians.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/news/press_releases/press_release.jsp?ymd=20060327&content_id=1364164&vkey=pr_cle&fext=.jsp&c_id=cle; see also CableFAX Daily, Mar. 30, 2006, p. 2. Moreover, it is Time Warner’s understanding that if FSN Ohio had been successful in renewing its rights to Indians games, it planned to institute a 100% increase in the FSN Ohio license fees beginning in 2007. See [REDACTED]

¹⁹ [REDACTED]

²⁰ DirecTV March 15 Letter at 7.

linked to the revenues derived from its ability to sell advertising.²¹ Indeed, if Time Warner fails to meet certain performance benchmarks that contemplate [REDACTED], the Sales Agreement is subject to termination.²² Moreover, the consideration under the Sales Agreement flows both ways, requiring Time Warner to purchase commercial spots and provide cross-promotional inventory with the aggregate value of [REDACTED].²³ In short, the Sales Agreement is a commercially reasonable, arms-length arrangement creating rights and duties on both sides -- not some "sham" designed to funnel "side payments" to Time Warner as alleged by DirecTV.²⁴

B. Time Warner's Rejection of Exclusivity Offered by the Indians

Try as DirecTV might to obfuscate inconvenient facts, the simple truth remains that the Cleveland Indians' offer of exclusivity was flatly rejected by Time Warner.²⁵ Nevertheless, DirecTV has the temerity to claim that this situation "bear[s] out DIRECTV's contention that increased clustering makes exclusive programming arrangements more likely."²⁶ Notably, Time Warner estimates that after the Transactions are completed, it will serve approximately [REDACTED] of the cable subscribers in the STO footprint.²⁷ Clearly, if this is insufficient "clustering" to make the Indians offer of exclusivity compelling, it is hard to imagine a situation where it would be.²⁸

3. C-SET – CHARLOTTE BOBCATS

A. Availability to Satellite

DirecTV continues to dwell extensively on an RSN that no longer exists. Turning to the situation as it exists today, DirecTV relies on hearsay and press reports in lieu of governing

²¹ [REDACTED]

²² [REDACTED]

²³ [REDACTED]

²⁴ DirecTV March 15 Letter at 7.

²⁵ See Time Warner March 2 Letter at 4-5.

²⁶ DirecTV March 15 Letter at 8.

²⁷ [REDACTED]

²⁸ DirecTV refers to a handwritten note on a letter to [REDACTED] in support of its theory that, upon closing of the Adelpia transactions, Time Warner would have an incentive to obtain exclusive rights to distribute STO for use "as a weapon against rival MVPDs." See DirecTV March 27 Letter at 5. Of course, the actual note says nothing whatsoever about use of "exclusivity" as a competitive "weapon." [REDACTED]

It is readily apparent that this statement is about whether Time Warner should enter into an affiliation agreement with STO at all, not whether it should press STO for exclusive distribution rights. Subsequent events bear this out -- a month after the date of this letter, Time Warner entered into the agreements relating to the Transactions, yet the final STO affiliation agreement reflects that Time Warner declined the offer of exclusivity from STO.

[REDACTED]

contractual provisions.²⁹ It is contracts that convey exclusivity, not press reports. Nothing in the contract between the Bobcats and Time Warner prevents the Bobcats from offering their games to satellite customers outside Time Warner Cable's service areas. Specifically, [REDACTED].³⁰ Tellingly, DirecTV offers no evidence that it has ever even requested the authority to distribute these games.

B. Terrestrial Delivery

Once again, DirecTV is chasing ghosts -- engaging in pointless speculation in an effort to conjure up some subversive motive for deletion of a provision in a draft affiliation agreement that called for terrestrial delivery. But nowhere does DirecTV cite any evidence that the deleted terrestrial delivery clause ever had anything to do with exclusivity -- which is entirely understandable given the fact that it was never contemplated that C-SET would be vertically integrated with any cable operator,³¹ and hence there was never any need for the use of terrestrial delivery as a mechanism to allow C-SET to offer its service on an exclusive basis.³²

DirecTV asserts that terrestrial delivery must have been "so important to somebody" in order for Time Warner to "have the right to cancel its carriage agreement if the RSN ever ceased terrestrial delivery."³³ Far from the sinister motives hypothesized by DirecTV, the final language in the agreement reveals a simple and straightforward rationale. Switching from terrestrial delivery to satellite delivery imposes costs on the cable operator, such as satellite dishes, down-converters, modulators, etc. The contract simply allows [REDACTED].³⁴ In short, as Time Warner has repeatedly demonstrated, this provision never had anything to do with exclusivity.

²⁹ For example, DirecTV cites emails from [REDACTED]. DirecTV March 27 Letter at 4, n. 18. These emails are not inconsistent with the plain contractual language -- DBS distribution of C-SET was restricted within Time Warner's service areas, but C-SET was free to allow DBS distribution anywhere else throughout North or South Carolina.

³⁰ [REDACTED]

³¹ [REDACTED]

³² DirecTV's March 27th filing seeks to bolster its speculative contention by citation to an internal email dated [REDACTED] between two Time Warner executives. See DirecTV March 27 Letter at 3, n. 12. That a Time Warner executive not directly involved in program contract negotiation or FCC regulatory matters might have been unsure of the intricacies of the program access rules is hardly remarkable. Notwithstanding the feigned confusion by DirecTV's counsel, it is plain that C-SET's authority to offer its service on an exclusive basis was derived entirely from its lack of cable operator ownership, not on the transmission technology selected for distribution.

³³ DirecTV March 15 Letter at 11.

³⁴ [REDACTED]

4. DOCUMENT PRODUCTION

DirecTV continues to snipe at Time Warner's voluminous document production in this proceeding.³⁵ While DirecTV understandably would prefer to engage in an unfettered fishing expedition for documents that might advance its parochial competitive agenda, Time Warner is confident that it has provided all responsive documents requested by Commission staff in the Information Request.³⁶ As reflected in the *ex parte* filings in this docket, Commission staff and Time Warner have had subsequent discussions relating to topics addressed by the Information Request.³⁷ As a gesture of good faith, and to provide Commission staff with a more fulsome record, Time Warner has submitted additional documents that may be of interest to the Commission as it completes its review of the Transactions.

DirecTV also questions why certain documents were produced by Time Warner with limited redactions.³⁸ Again, while Time Warner is not answerable to DirecTV in such matters, certain documents were redacted in accordance with generally recognized procedures designed to protect the attorney/client privilege, as was the case with redacted documents produced to the FTC.

5. CONCLUSION

Cutting through all of DirecTV's rhetoric and bluster, the extensive record in this proceeding, coupled with real-world experience, serves to debunk DirecTV's predictions of doom and gloom.

- **DirecTV's Prediction:**

The Transactions will cause new RSNs to be distributed terrestrially in order to "evade" the program access rules.

- **Fact:**

³⁵ DirecTV March 15 Letter at 13-14; DirecTV March 27 Letter at 2, 8.

³⁶ Letter from Donna C. Gregg, Chief, Media Bureau, to Steven N. Teplitz, et al., Time Warner Inc. (Dec. 5, 2005 ("Information Request")).

³⁷ See, e.g., letter from Arthur H. Harding, Counsel for Time Warner Inc., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (Mar. 14, 2006); letter from Arthur H. Harding, Counsel for Time Warner Inc., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (Mar. 22, 2006); letter from Arthur H. Harding, Counsel for Time Warner Inc., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (Mar. 23, 2006); letter from Arthur H. Harding, Counsel for Time Warner Inc., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (Mar. 24, 2006).

³⁸ DirecTV March 15 Letter at 13; DirecTV March 27 Letter at 2, n. 7.

The two new RSNs commencing operation after announcement of the Transactions are both distributed by satellite.

- **DirecTV's Prediction:**

The Transactions will enable the Applicants to secure exclusive distribution from new RSNs.

- **Fact:**

The two new RSNs commencing operation after announcement of the Transactions are both available on a non-exclusive basis and, in fact, are being carried by DirecTV.

- **DirecTV's Prediction:**

The Transactions will create an incentive for the Applicants to "lock-up" distribution rights for major sports teams.

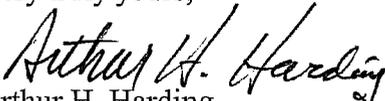
- **Fact:**

DirecTV's affiliate (Fox Cable Networks) has recently acquired distribution rights for three major sports teams from Time Warner -- the Atlanta Braves, Atlanta Hawks and Atlanta Thrashers -- making Fox Cable Networks the "primary local television partner to more than half (44) of all U.S.-based MLB, NBA and NHL franchises."³⁹ Most of these teams are already "locked-up" in long-term agreements with Fox.⁴⁰ In fact, Fox Sports West has announced that it has expanded its agreement with the Los Angeles Angels, doubling the number of games that it controls from 50 to 100.⁴¹

In short, there is no transaction-specific harm relating to RSNs that warrants Commission attention in this proceeding.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions regarding the foregoing.

Very truly yours,


Arthur H. Harding
Counsel for Time Warner Inc.

³⁹ See News Corporation press release, *supra* n. 6.

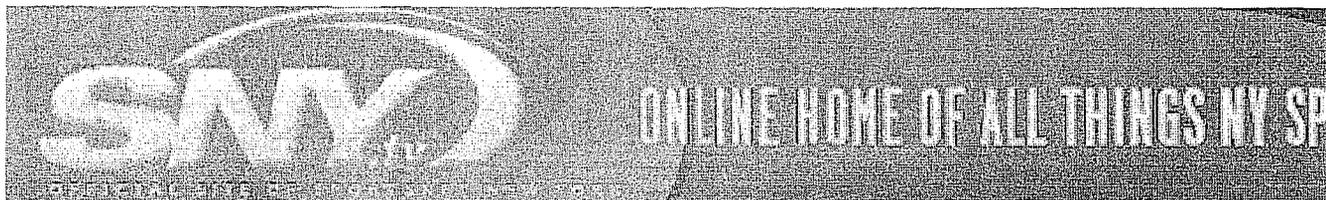
⁴⁰ See Comcast March 15 Letter at 10-11; Comcast March 24 Letter at 8-9.

⁴¹ "Baseball Season Opener Sparks Some Cable, DBS Carriage Deals," Communications Daily, Apr. 4, 2006 at 7.

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
April 8, 2006
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Attachments
186672.8

cc: Donna Gregg	Jim Bird
Sarah Whitesell	Jeff Tobias
Tracy Waldon	JoAnn Lucanik
Royce Sherlock	Kimberly Jackson
Marcia Glauberman	Neil Dellar
Julie Salovaara	Ann Bushmiller
Wayne McKee	Best Copy and Printing, Inc.



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04/03/2006 8:12 PM ET

DIRECTV adds SportsNET New York to lineup

New network offered as part of Total Choice, Sports Pack programming

SportsNet New York

NEW YORK -- SportsNet New York and DIRECTV today announced a long-term agreement to provide the new regional sports network featuring the New York Mets and the New York Jets to DIRECTV customers.

The new network will be available this Wednesday to DIRECTV customers within the SportsNet New York footprint who subscribe to DIRECTV TOTAL CHOICE® programming package. DIRECTV will also offer SNY as part of its SPORTS Pack, which is available throughout the United States to all DIRECTV customers. The network will debut on channel 625. The agreement will also deliver to its high-definition (HD) customers an HD version of select home Mets games produced by SNY.

"We are thrilled to announce that SportsNet New York will be available to DIRECTV customers," said Jon Litner, President of SportsNet New York. "We look forward to providing Mets games, extensive coverage of the Jets as well as our compelling blend of 24/7 sports programming to DIRECTV customers."

"We appreciate the patience of the many Mets fans who were eagerly waiting to watch an exciting Mets team on SportsNet New York on DIRECTV," said Dan Fawcett, executive vice president, Programming Acquisition, DIRECTV, Inc. "As the nation's premiere sports programming provider, we could not let these fans down."

About SportsNet New York

SportsNet New York (SNY), which launched on March 16, 2006, is New York's new regional sports network founded by Sterling Entertainment Enterprises, Time Warner and Comcast. SNY is a 24/7 regional sports and entertainment television network that will feature a season-long New York Mets telecast -- as well as provide unparalleled live sports and local news coverage to the Tri-State area through nightly "SportsNite" shows. SNY will be available to viewers in New York, Connecticut, most of New Jersey and northeastern Pennsylvania. In addition to Mets games, SNY is also the official year-round television home of the New York Jets, providing viewers the most comprehensive coverage and access to the Jets organization and its players. SNY will also televise other professional and collegiate sports, including basketball and football games from the Big East and Big Ten conferences, as well as classic sports and event programming. SNY will feature exclusive interview and magazine programs.

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SportsTime Ohio, DIRECTV finalize broadcast rights agreement

14/03/2006 9:30 PM ET

Cleveland Indians Media Relations

CLEVELAND -- SportsTime Ohio, the new Indians television network, will begin to air on DIRECTV with the April 4th Indians vs. White Sox game. The pregame show will air at 1:30 pm, with game coverage beginning at 2:05 pm. Greater Cleveland and surrounding area subscribers of DIRECTV can find SportsTime Ohio on channel 657.

Please see the list of zip codes that will see SportsTime Ohio below. Residential subscribers outside the Greater Cleveland and/or surrounding area with questions can call DIRECTV at 1-800-494-4388 and commercial subscribers can call 1-888-200-4388.

"We are very excited to have DIRECTV on board in time for the start of our regular season broadcasts," said Jim Liberatore, president of SportsTime Ohio, "so tomorrow afternoon and all season the fans in Greater Cleveland can see the game. A process normally completed over months was finished in six weeks because of extra effort on the part of DIRECTV and we greatly appreciated it."

The addition of DIRECTV brings SportsTime Ohio's list of partners to 19, including 17 cable operators. Indians fans can find out what channel to tune into to catch Tribe games by visiting www.sportstimeohio.com.

In addition to 130 regular season Indians games in 2006, DIRECTV subscribers will see other original local programming centering on the interests and passions of Northern Ohio sports fans.

About SportsTime Ohio

SportsTime Ohio is a Northern Ohio regional sports network which will offer a variety of sports programming produced for the Ohio sports fan. Beginning March 12, 2006, SportsTime Ohio launched the largest television package in Cleveland Indians history of 158 games annually. The schedule calls for SportsTime Ohio to air 130 regular season games and eight spring training games on cable and satellite television. SportsTime Ohio will also broadcast an additional 20 games on WKYC-TV (Cleveland) and other over-the-air local television stations in key Indians television markets. Plans are being developed to offer additional programming, geared specifically toward Ohio-area sports fans and the passion that makes the region a great sports community, to complement this expanded baseball schedule throughout the year.

This story was not subject to the approval of Major League Baseball or its clubs.

Indians Homepage | MLB.com