

I am a Service Engineer in the Medical Industry. I have lived in the same metropolitan area for 47 years. I have subscribed to satellite radio for six months now. I strongly agree the merger of both satellite companies is a positive for the consumer. I have witnessed the disintegration of local radio for several years e.g. programming genres and play lists. We lost our local Oldies Station several months ago. This lack of choice can't be good for consumers. A huge reason I subscribed to satellite radio was the benefit of listening to continuous uninterrupted programming with no loss of reception while I traveled hundreds of miles across the Upper Midwest servicing hospital medical equipment. The second reason I subscribed was the variety of programming satellite radio offers. The programming variety satellite offers is great however, not perfect. A combined satellite company will reduce costs to the consumer by eliminating duplicate services while providing more choices by combining different services e.g. football/baseball. Programming packages or tiers offered to the consumer results in lower costs and variety. Satellite radio is not a necessity. Satellite radio competes with free radio, HD radio, MP3 players/Ipods, Cell phones, Internet radio and new emerging technologies such as WIFI. Free or regular radio industry has become complacent over the years and has not looked out for the best interest of the consumer. Fewer not more choices are the norm now. Complacency is not just confined to the radio industry, it happens everywhere even in the industry I work. We live in a very dynamic world today and change is part of it. We need to reevaluate our policies and goals and migrate away from outmoded customs. Both, consumer and the radio industry will benefit from this merger and become much stronger for it.

Regards,

Doug Hall