

## Comments on National Broadband Plan -- Notice of Inquiry (NOI) GN Docket No. 09-51

### I. Building Upon a Strong Broadband Foundation

Comprehensive analysis shows much that is going well that mustn't be taken for granted in any new broadband plans. This is no time to proverbially "throw the baby out with the bathwater." Unlike many other sectors of the economy, the American broadband sector is: an exceptionally strong foundation to build upon; on the right track with much positive momentum; and partnering to solve many of society's most pressing problems. For the detailed case and evidence of America's strong broadband foundation, please see:

- *Building Upon a Strong Broadband Foundation -- Part I in America's Broadband Strengths Series* <http://www.precursorblog.com/content/building-upon-a-strong-broadband-foundation-part-i-america%E2%80%99s-broadband-strengths-series>
- *The Data Show Competition Works! Building Upon a Strong Broadband Foundation -- Part II* <http://www.precursorblog.com/content/the-data-show-competition-works-building-upon-a-strong-broadband-foundation-part-ii>

### II. The U.S. is Not Falling Behind on Broadband

There is substantial new evidence since Congress passed the stimulus package that the U.S. is not falling behind the rest of the world on broadband. This new evidence undermines the argument that the U.S. should abandon current successful facilities-based broadband competition policy and replace it with European-style more-government-directed broadband policy.

- *Latest Data: US No Longer Falling Behind on Broadband* The latest [data](#) from the [OECD](#) and other sources indicate that the U.S. is no longer falling behind the rest of the world in broadband. <http://www.precursorblog.com/content/latest-data-us-no-longer-falling-behind-broadband>
- *EC declares "no need for State intervention" in broadband duopoly because there's no market failure* In a significant blow to U.S. advocates of Government-mandated open access networks -- over facilities-based broadband network competition -- the European Commission (EC) just declared "no need for State intervention" in geographic zones where there are at least two facilities-based broadband network competitors, because that means "there is no market failure." <http://www.precursorblog.com/content/ec-declares-no-need-state-intervention-broadband-duopoly-because-theres-no-market-failure>
- *U.S. Leads World in Broadband Affordability per New ITU Data -- Competition works!* Data in a broad new [study](#) by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) of 150 countries, show the U.S. substantially in the world lead with the lowest broadband prices as a percentage of per capita GNI. (See the tables on pages 56 and 66.)

Interestingly, the data show broadband in the U.S. is 2.5 times more affordable than Japan, and three times more affordable than South Korea and France (p. 66). <http://www.precursorblog.com/content/us-leads-world-broadband-affordability-new-itu-data-competition-works>

### III. The Elevated Cybersecurity Priority

Another big change has occurred since Congress passed the Economic Stimulus package, which is highly relevant and material to the development of a National Broadband Plan; President Obama elevated cybersecurity as the leading priority for the Internet and cyberspace just last week.

President Obama said:

- *"This new approach starts at the top, with this commitment from me: From now on, our digital infrastructure -- the networks and computers we depend on every day -- will be treated as they should be: as a strategic national asset. Protecting this infrastructure will be a national security priority. We will ensure that these networks are secure, trustworthy and resilient. We will deter, prevent, detect, and defend against attacks and recover quickly from any disruptions or damage."*
- *"In short, America's economic prosperity in the 21st century will depend on cybersecurity." ... "It's about the privacy and economic security of American families." ...this is also a matter of public safety and national security."*

See: *Why New WH Cybersecurity Focus is a Game-Changer -- for the Internet and Net Neutrality* for a detailed analysis of the implications of the new cybersecurity policy emphasis. <http://www.precursorblog.com/content/why-new-wh-cybersecurity-focus-a-game-changer-internet-and-net-neutrality>

Respectfully submitted,

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