



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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FCC ISSUES INQUIRY FOR ITS ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON VIDEO COMPETITION

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) initiated its eleventh annual inquiry, as required by Congress, into the status of competition in the market for the delivery of video programming.

Today's Notice of Inquiry ("Notice") solicits information and comment for the FCC's 2004 Report to Congress pursuant to Section 628(g) of the Communications Act. The Notice is designed to assist the FCC in gathering the information, data, and comments for the 2004 Competition Report. In the 2004 Competition Report, the FCC expects to report on changes in the competitive environment over the last year. The NOI seeks information that will allow the FCC to evaluate the status of competition in the video marketplace, changes in the market since the *2003 Report*, prospects for new entrants to that market, factors that have facilitated or impeded competition, and the effect of competition on industry groups and most importantly, consumers. The 2004 Competition Report should be sent to Congress by the end of the year.

The Notice seeks comments and information on video distributors in the market for the delivery of video programming including those using both wireline and wireless technologies. Video programming distributors include cable systems, direct broadcast satellite ("DBS") providers, home satellite dish ("HSD") providers, broadband service providers ("BSPs"), private cable or satellite master antenna television ("PCO") systems, open video systems ("OVS"), multichannel multipoint distribution services or wireless cable systems ("MMDS"), local exchange carrier ("LEC") systems, utilities, and over-the-air broadcast television stations. Video programming is also distributed on videocassettes and DVDs through retail distribution outlets and over the Internet. The Notice also requests information that will allow the FCC to evaluate horizontal concentration in the video marketplace, vertical integration between programming distributors and programming services, and other issues relating to the programming available to consumers. The Notice requests information on technical issues, including equipment and emerging services. The Notice further asks for comments regarding developments in foreign markets, as they may contribute to the FCC's understanding of domestic markets.

Action by the Commission June 10, 2004 by Notice of Inquiry (FCC 04-136).
Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin, and Adelstein. Separate statements issued by Commissioners Copps and Adelstein.

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