



For Immediate Release

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AT&T Direct TV Merger Conditions Reflect Power of Open Internet and Interconnection Movement

WASHINGTON DC (July 21, 2015) – Yesterday, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler announced an order recommending that the AT&T/DirecTV transaction be approved with conditions, and was circulated to the other Commissioners.

COMPTEL, the competitive networks association, has called for the inclusion of interconnection requirements as a condition to the merger in filings to the FCC.

In response to the announcement, Chip Pickering, CEO of COMPTEL, released the following statement:

“COMPTEL has long advocated for an open interconnection policy, and under Chairman Wheeler's leadership, the Commission established a just and reasonable standard for Internet interconnection practices to protect and promote an open Internet and a more competitive marketplace.

“The Comcast merger was withdrawn over interconnection and other broadband concentration concerns, and since the Open Internet Order, several major interconnection agreements have been agreed to in the marketplace.

“Just last week, Charter announced modifications to its interconnection policy and its willingness to live by them as a condition to its proposed merger with Time Warner Cable and Bright House. These recent developments in the marketplace have been based on the industry standard of no access fees for transit providers, content delivery networks, and over-the-top content providers that bring the traffic to the doorstep of the broadband Internet access service provider.

“We're pleased to see interconnection taking center stage in the Commission's Order on AT&T/DirectTV. The transparency condition gained in this merger will give the Commission the tool it needs to review AT&T's interconnection practices to determine whether it is living up to the industry's standard of no access fees.

“The combined progress made on interconnection promotes an Open Internet and a more competitive marketplace for over-the-top content, applications, and services. These competitive gains are significant and measurable. The Chairman and Commission's comprehensive actions are responsible for this tangible movement on what is the first amendment of competition policy—interconnection. COMPTEL commends the Chairman for achieving another major step on the road to greater competition.”

About COMPTEL:

Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTEL is the leading industry association representing competitive networks. COMPTEL members are entrepreneurial companies driving technological innovation and creating economic growth through competitive voice, video, and data offerings and the development and deployment of next-generation, IP-based networks and services. COMPTEL advances its members' interests through trade shows, networking, education, and policy advocacy before Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the courts. COMPTEL works to ensure that competitive communications providers can continue to offer lower prices, better service, and greater innovation to consumers. For more information, [visitwww.comptel.org](http://www.comptel.org) or follow @COMPTEL on Twitter.