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Atlantic Broadband, the nation's 12th largest cable operator, announced on Tuesday it is now offering even faster residential and business Internet speeds as part of its ongoing service enhancements to Bradford and the surrounding area. Effective Tuesday, Atlantic Broadband is offering residential and business Internet speeds up to 120 Mbps/10 Mbps. Company officials said for consumers, this is nearly 2 times faster on download speeds than what was previously available (75 Mbps/5 Mbps) and means they can download

movies and television shows and play online games faster than ever before.

For businesses, the new speeds will help increase overall productivity and efficiencies. "We understand the need for both quick access and reliability when it comes to our customer's Internet speeds," said Atlantic Broadband Vice President and General Manager Curt Kosko. "We are committed to staying one step ahead of today's active Internet user and many steps ahead of our competition, and believe that the availability of our newly enhanced Internet speeds will do just that."

Atlantic Broadband's new residential Internet speeds are available with 12 month promotional pricing as low as \$29.99 per month on the new 60 Mbps Express Internet service. Company

officials said the "Pro" Internet services are available to new and existing business customers for as low as \$89.99 per month. Atlantic Broadband customers who currently subscribe to residential or business services will see their speeds increase automatically at no extra cost by the end of November, according to company officials. – **Bradford (McKean Co.) Era**

Amazon.com Inc. is exploring the creation of an online pay-TV service to complement its existing video offerings and has reached out to major media companies including CBS Corp. and Comcast Corp.'s NBCUniversal about carrying their channels, according to



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people familiar with the matter. Amazon's deliberations are preliminary, said the individuals, who asked not to be identified discussing negotiations. Some of the talks date back several months, according to one of the people.

A live service would expand the online retailer's role in video entertainment and bring it into direct competition with pay-TV providers like Comcast and AT&T Inc. Other companies are offering or experimenting with bundles of channels delivered over the Internet, including Sony Corp., Dish Network Corp. and Apple Inc.

Amazon already offers an on-demand video service akin to the one offered by Netflix Inc. Frost & Sullivan analyst Dan Rayburn wrote Tuesday on his StreamingMediaBlog that content owners were approached by the company, without identifying any. Amazon's recent agreement to acquire Elemental Technologies provides a platform to deliver live TV over the Web, he wrote. "Those I have spoken with haven't disclosed how far along Amazon is with regards to a live OTT service," Rayburn wrote. "It's possible Amazon is simply looking at the economics of the business, which would involve them talking with content owners about costs." Craig Berman, a spokesman for Seattle-based Amazon, declined to comment.

Amazon, the world's largest online retailer, has made entertainment a bigger part of its pitch to customers over the past few years, attracting viewers from conventional TV services. The company created Prime Instant Video to lure more subscribers to its delivery service, offering movies and TV shows from major Hollywood studios. It also funds its own TV shows and movies.

Pay-TV providers like Verizon Communications Inc. and Dish Network Corp. are responding with "skinny bundles," cheaper services offering fewer channels than the typical pay-TV package. Apple is working on a similar project. Amazon has been considering offering live TV as far back as January 2014, when the Wall Street Journal reported an approach to media companies. – **Bloomberg**

Sen. Al Franken on Wednesday said he will reach out to his vast network of net neutrality supporters to apply pressure on Republicans after they added a provision in this next year's budget that guts new net neutrality rules. The Republican measure, inserted into the budget over the summer, would prevent the Federal Communications Commission from enforcing net neutrality rules until Internet service providers deplete all legal challenges with the commission.

Franken noted in a press call with Massachusetts Sen. Ed Markey that four million people weighed in in favor of net neutrality to the FCC. "I guess we've got to appeal to people again," Franken said. "These businesses, like Ford, like Bank Of America, they don't want this either. The only people who really benefit for this are ISPs (Internet service providers). I'm not sure my Republican colleagues totally understand the issue of net neutrality."

Franken has been a vocal supporter of net neutrality, which essentially promises that all Internet traffic and speeds are treated equally. The FCC, in February, called for regulating the Internet like a utility, which prevents the large providers like Comcast and Verizon from setting various prices for Internet lines, depending on the users and hosts.

– **Minneapolis Star Tribune**



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