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Atlantic Broadband has launched TiVo's new Unified Entertainment System in its Virginia service areas including Westmoreland, Warsaw, Tappahannock, Bowling Green, Colonial Beach, King George, Mathews, Northumberland, Saluda and surrounding communities. The new entertainment platform features a user interface (UI) with intuitive navigation and enhanced functionality, personalized viewing recommendations and a remote with conversational voice control.

Content also is searchable across multiple sources, including live TV, DVR recordings, video on demand (VOD) and streaming apps, including Netflix, YouTube, HBO GO and MLB.TV. The new TiVo Entertainment System also allows customers to access content on multiple screens, both in and out of the home. "The new experience is not only visually beautiful, but will transform the TV experience for our customers," said Heather McCallion, vice president of Products and Programming for Atlantic Broadband. "Sophisticated, advanced technology powers the new interface, but it's amazingly simple to use and will make it easier for customers to find and enjoy the shows they love to watch. We are pleased to bring this major product enhancement to Atlantic Broadband's markets as we continue to innovate on behalf of the customers we serve." Other features include: Tailored Recommendations; DVR Capability; Stream to Mobile; SmartBar search feature; My Shows List; QuickView.

In conjunction with the launch of TiVo Entertainment System, Atlantic Broadband has introduced a new VOD platform that increases the number of on-demand choices, while delivering the content to customers on the viewing device of their choice. Atlantic Broadband started deploying the TiVo UI in July and has since expanded it to parts of South Carolina, Maryland, Delaware and now Virginia. – *Broadband Technology Report*

An Allegheny County judge has ordered the release of the region's bid for Amazon's second headquarters. In a four-page ruling Wednesday, Common Pleas Senior Judge W. Terrence O'Brien said he found no basis for Pittsburgh and Allegheny County to keep the 300-page proposal secret. "This case is not about whether Amazon's locating its second headquarters in this region would provide an economic boost. Nor is it relevant, as argued by the [city and county], that public disclosure of the records at issue would 'sabotage [this region's] opportunity to compete with' other regions of the United States for the headquarters," he wrote.

In conclusion, Judge O'Brien said that the city and county had "failed to meet their burden of establishing, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the proposal is exempt under the Right-To-Know Law." The judge, in his order, gave the two governments 30 days to release the proposal unless they appeal his decision to the state's Commonwealth Court, which is exactly what the city and the county said they plan to do. "Our respective law departments will be reviewing the order of court, but we plan to appeal this decision," they said the statement.

Judge O'Brien acted on an appeal filed by the city and the county after the state Office of Open Records ruled in favor of WTAE-TV and reporter Paul Van Osdol. It ordered the proposal released after finding that it was a public record. "We are pleased with the Court's ruling, but disappointed by the City and County's stated plans to prolong their effort to hide this important information from the public by appealing," said Ravi V. Sitwala, Associate General Counsel for the Hearst Corporation.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette also has won a state open records office ruling regarding the proposal that the city has appealed to Common Pleas Court. "The logic and legal conclusions of the court's decision apply directly and squarely to the Post-Gazette's legal claims. The Post-Gazette is entitled to an order in its favor and we will immediately seek entry of such an order," said Fritz Byers, the newspaper's attorney. In the WTAE-TV case, the open records office rejected the city and county claims that the document contained confidential proprietary information and trade secrets protected from release under the state's Right-to-Know law.

The two government also maintained the proposal was exempt from release because it contained confidential proprietary information and trade secrets offered by PGHQ2, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development arm set up to submit the region's bid. In his ruling, Judge O'Brien soundly rejected that argument. He said that PGHQ2 has no employees; that the chiefs of staff of Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto and county Executive Rich Fitzgerald were members of the board of managers of PGHQ2 while the proposal was being created and attended board meetings during working hours; and that PGHQ2 sells nothing.

Judge O'Brien also stated that the proposal included descriptions of tax incentives that only the city and county could provide to Amazon and that the bid is a bilateral state and local proposal. "Although [Allegheny Conference CEO Stefani] Pashman testified she did not know if the [city and county] approved the submission of the proposal to Amazon, my *in camera* review revealed that it begins with a letter to Amazon signed only by her, the Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh, and the Allegheny County Executive," he wrote. He added that the testimony of Ms. Pashman, the only witness in a July hearing on the appeal, "did little, if anything, to support the exemptions relied upon by the city and the county." The conference declined comment on the ruling Wednesday, directing reporters to the joint city and county statement.

In the weeks before Judge O'Brien's ruling, the city and county sent a private letter to him asking that he exempt any information involving state or local economic incentives or private or public real estate being offered Amazon from release should he side with WTAE. But the judge, in Wednesday's ruling, ordered the proposal released without any such redactions. Mr. Peduto and Mr. Fitzgerald have steadfastly refused to make public the proposal given to Amazon last fall, claiming that to do so would put the region at a competitive disadvantage in the race with 19 other finalists for the second headquarters.

State officials are believed to be offering at least \$1 billion in incentives, although that has not been publicly disclosed. Like the city and the county, the state has fought in the courts to keep the incentive

package secret. Of the publicly known bids, Maryland has dangled \$8.5 billion in incentives to attract HQ2. New Jersey has offered \$7 billion. The Amazon project could bring up to 50,000 jobs and \$5 billion in investment over 17 years to the winning site. The online retailer is expected to make its decision by the end of the year. Given that the city and county plan to appeal Judge O'Brien's ruling, it is growing more likely that Amazon may select the winner before the court case is decided. Mr. Peduto and Mr. Fitzgerald have said they would release the region's bid once Amazon has made its announcement. –

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

AT&T Inc.'s HBO and sister channel Cinemax went dark on satellite broadcaster Dish Network Corp early Thursday as the two sides couldn't come to terms on a new distribution agreement. HBO said this is the first time in its more than 40 years of operation that it went dark on a pay-TV provider. Of Dish's 13 million customers, about 2.5 million subscribe to HBO and or Cinemax, a person familiar with the matter said. The distribution fight is the first for a Time Warner property since AT&T closed its acquisition of the entertainment giant in June.

In a statement, HBO said Dish has been "extremely difficult" in negotiations by "responding to our good faith attempts with unreasonable terms." Dish fired back by saying HBO's new owner, AT&T, is the one making onerous demands and looking to harm distributors so it can favor its own services, including Dish rival DirecTV. "It seems AT&T is implementing a new strategy to shut off its recently acquired content from other distributors," said Andy LeCuyer, Dish's senior vice president of programming. He added that AT&T's acquisition of Time Warner Inc. has given it "tremendous power over consumers."

A senior HBO executive contested Dish's charge that the fight is tied to AT&T now owning the channel and said the terms being offered are superior to Dish's current deal. At issue are subscriber guarantees HBO is seeking that Dish is balking at. Typically, pay channels like HBO and CBS Corp.'s Showtime set a benchmark of subscribers for distributors to reach. If the distributor can't meet that mark, it is on the hook for making up the difference. If it exceeds the mark, it keeps a larger chunk of the subscriber revenue. Dish has shown in the past that it isn't afraid to drop channels during contract disputes. Over the past few years, networks dropped by Dish include Fox News, CBS and local TV station owners Sinclair Broadcast Group Inc. and Tribune Media Co. All eventually reached new agreements with Dish. – **Wall Street Journal**

