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**BCAP**  **NewsClips** November 25, 2014

*Washington Post*

**Why Mark Cuban opposes net neutrality: 'I want there to be fast lanes'**

*Christian Science Monitor*

**FCC spectrum auction brings in more than \$34 billion in bids**

*Fierce Cable*  
**Ovation CEO Segars: Comcast-TWC merger is 'unequivocal win' for programmers**

*Reuters*  
**Sony to cut TV, smartphone lineup; sees growth in PlayStation, image sensors**

Dish Network, the nation's third-largest pay-TV company, may drop NBCUniversal's regional sports networks in the Chicago, Washington, Sacramento, and San Francisco areas on Dec. 1.

The plan seems to be part of a strategy to slim down the bundle of cable channels offered to its TV subscribers, to control price increases. Dish axed the Boston-area regional sports network in August. Comcast Corp. owns NBCUniversal and the Comcast-branded regional sports networks. Regional sports networks can be the second-most-expensive networks in a cable bundle - exceeded only by ESPN - because of the billions of dollars the networks have committed in recent years to acquiring TV rights for professional sports.

Networks say the sports rights are worth the cost because of fans' passion and the excitement of live TV viewing. But Dish's hardball negotiating tactics are an indication of continuing stress for the cable-sports TV business. Because of costs, Time Warner Cable Inc. has not reached broad distribution deals for SportNet LA, its regional sports network that televises the Los Angeles Dodgers. A Houston regional sports network was recently reorganized in U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

NBCUniversal is warning subscribers of a Dec. 1 deadline by which Dish must reach a new contract to keep televising the regional sports networks. "We are growing increasingly concerned that Dish is not willing to work toward mutually accepted terms for continuing carriage" of Comcast SportsNet Mid-Atlantic, Comcast SportsNet Chicago, Comcast SportsNet Bay Area, and Comcast SportsNet California," NBCUniversal said in a statement. Satellite provider Dish, which has 14.1 million TV subscribers nationwide, has never carried Comcast SportsNet Philadelphia. The Philadelphia network, also part of NBCUniversal, televises the Phillies, the 76ers, and the Flyers.

NBCUniversal thinks that disclosing the status of the Dish negotiations could lead to blowback by sports fans in those cities, forcing Dish to soften its stance. NBC Sports Group spokesman Tim Buckman did not comment Monday beyond the statement. Dish says NBCUniversal is seeking a 40 percent price increase for the regional sports networks "when only a small fraction of those consumers actually watch the channels. This heavy-handed tactic is troubling given Comcast's proposed merger with Time Warner Cable that would allow it to exercise even more power to leverage programming content in anti-competitive ways."

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Comcast has proposed acquiring Time Warner Cable for \$45 billion. The Justice Department and the Federal Communications Commission are reviewing the complex deal for anti-competitive concerns and public-interest benefits. NBCUniversal's hikes of the fees to distribute the regional sports channels were closer to 10 percent, according to a source close to the negotiations. – *Philadelphia Inquirer*

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Members of Congress serving on subcommittees charged with legislating the Internet are invested in major broadband service providers including Comcast, AT&T and Verizon some of them with significant holdings. The data comes courtesy of MapLight.org, and was distilled by *Gizmodo*. According to financial disclosures, four members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and one member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, hold personal investments in one, two or all of the aforementioned ISP giants, AT&T, Comcast and Verizon.

Fred Upton, (D-Mich.), chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce is invested in all three companies, according to public disclosures. While disclosure is mandatory, investing in companies they regulate is not illegal for Congressional lawmakers. "In sum, there are no restrictions on any kind of investments," Meredith McGhee, policy director at the Campaign Legal Center, told *Gizmodo*. "Members in the House (and Senate) are not required to divest. To recuse or abstain from voting, they have to have a 'direct personal or pecuniary interest in the event of such question.' That is interpreted to mean when legislation affects a 'class' of people and not a few individuals." – *Fierce Cable*

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And then there were three.

Philadelphia is among the finalist cities announced Monday by the Democratic National Committee as party leaders weigh where to hold their 2016 convention. The other two finalists are New York City and Columbus, Ohio. "We're thrilled to move to the next step of the selection process to determine where Democrats will come together to nominate the 45th President of the United States," said U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee, in a statement. Monday's announcement narrowed what had been a list of five cities, knocking Phoenix and Birmingham out of contention.

National party officials headed to Philadelphia in August to review the city's bid and tour the area where massive gathering would be held. State Democrats, including former Gov. Ed Rendell and Mayor Michael Nutter, have been bullish about the odds of the event - and its economic ripple effects - coming to the commonwealth. Since then, Rendell and others organizing the bid have focused on raising the money needed to cover the costs of hosting a national party convention. The DNC release said three possible weeks are under consideration for the event's timing: those beginning July 18, July 25, and August 22. A final city and date will be selected early next year, according to the news release. – *Allentown Morning Call*



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