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Atlantic Broadband has joined its large cable cousins like Comcast in extending 1 Gbps services via [DOCSIS 3.1 to 37,000 customers](#), and the MSO sees the product as a way to address smaller business customers.

While Atlantic Broadband has built a sizable presence amid medium and large business customers providing fiber-based metro Ethernet services, the advent of 1 Gbps business service can address SMBs it could not reach with a fiber solution. By launching Pro GigaEdge, new area businesses customers in eight eastern Connecticut cities can get the service for \$249.99 per month. "We've had gigabit Ethernet services for businesses for some time, but the new news is making that more widely available at a great value to smaller businesses," said David Isenberg, president and chief revenue officer for Atlantic Broadband in an interview with *FierceTelecom*. "It's about driving that gigabit class speed into more businesses."

But 1 Gbps download is just one element of Atlantic Broadband's business upgrade strategy. The cable MSO also raised the upload speeds of their business services offering. Specifically, the service provider's Pro Edge 250 Mbps package raised the upload speed to 25 Mbps, while the Pro GigaEdge offers a 50 Mbps upload speed. "There is a need and a demand for faster speeds on the business side of the house as well as the residential side of the house," Isenberg said. "A key part of what we did is we increased all of our upstream speeds and before we launched our Pro GigaEdge our fastest upstream speed was 20 Mbps so it's a two-and-a-half (megabit) lift in the fastest upstream speed in our footprint."

Isenberg added that increasing the upstream speed is increasingly becoming a bigger priority for business customers. "For businesses, the upstream speed is more important than in the residential world," Isenberg said. "When you talk about metro Ethernet services those are not as deeply available as our DOCSIS plant goes and so this is really about bringing 250 Mbps and gigabit class services to a much wider scope within the community." – *Fierce Telecom*

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Screaming-fast internet speeds. Cloud-based TV remotes. Wireless networks over cable. And home automation.

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These are some of the innovations that will be talked about at an energized 2016 cable show for engineers and techs that opened in Philadelphia on Tuesday at the Convention Center. The conference shows how the historically low-tech cable industry is pushing into

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new services. Eight thousand participants are expected to attend the three-day event only a few blocks from the headquarters for Comcast Corp., the nation's largest cable company. The event is organized by the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers of Exton and the International Society of Broadband Experts. The last one was held in New Orleans.

The stakes are high as the cable industry faces an uncertain future: Comcast is in an internet speed war with Google Fiber, and the whole cable industry is addressing the trend of Americans increasingly accessing entertainment and content on the go wirelessly. "People from all over the world are here because this is the biggest cable show there is," said Steve Harrison, inside sales manager for Pico Digital of San Diego, at his company's

booth inside the center. "This is where the engineers go to see all the new innovations."

As cable companies have added new services to compete with Silicon Valley firms, the number of vendors supplying cable has expanded, boosting participation in the show. Four hundred exhibitors reserved booths, up from 250 to 300 vendors several years ago, said Terry Maloney, the vice president of marketing and business development with the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers. "We are getting big into operating wireless networks," he said, noting that the wireless company Nokia has a big presence this year.

Companies selling cable, GPS trackers, specialty hand tools, and "outside plant products" also had booths. Al Hinson, regional sales manager for the Hubbell Power Systems, answered questions at a booth with a faux telephone pole displaying lugs, clamps, and other pole equipment. Steve Gutman, a senior vice president for Universal Electronics, which manufactures TV remotes, talked about how his company's remotes can now access information in the computer cloud to ease the transition to a new televisions or pay-TV service.

Tony Werner, Comcast's top technology executive, was wandering through the cavernous center as scores of people streamed through the registration area. Hundreds of his Comcast engineers, "a good contingent," were there, he said. There was buzz around super-fast internet and "the new designs in the fiber-optic portions of the network." The Philadelphia event this week is one of two annual cable-industry trade shows. The NCTA - The Internet & Television Association, based in Washington, holds one for entertainment companies and content companies in the spring. Until recently the Washington lobbying organization called itself the National Cable & Telecommunications Association. – *Philadelphia Inquirer*

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The FCC is poised to vote on a proposal Thursday designed to free consumers from renting cable and satellite set-top boxes, but questions remained on the final details of the plan. The proposal would require that multichannel distributors, such as Comcast and Charter, offer a free app to subscribers that would allow them to access their programming on different devices and streaming services.

Hollywood studios and other content companies oppose the proposal's call for the creation of a body that would be tasked with licensing the app. They fear that because the FCC would have oversight over the licensing, they would be forced to distribute content in ways with which they do not agree. Earlier this month, FCC commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel expressed reservations over the licensing aspect of the proposal, leading to speculation that the plan was in for changes before the vote. Given the partisan split of the commission, her vote would be crucial.

Representatives from the Walt Disney Co., CBS Corp., Scripps Networks Interactive, and Time Warner met with FCC officials and discussed an alternative to the licensing plan. Instead of FCC oversight, the agency would conduct a "reevaluation" of the marketplace in 2020. "This would provide time for apps to be deployed and for the app market to develop and function and, if necessary at the conclusion of that period, enable the Commission to assess whether any additional steps -- consistent with its authority -- should be taken," according to an exparte filing from the companies. In the interim, the FCC would decline to entertain any complaints regarding the terms of the license.

On Tuesday, several Capitol Hill lawmakers urged the FCC to pass the set-top box plan. "When we unlock the box, we unlock competition, we unlock choice, and we unlock innovation," Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) said in a conference call with reporters. He urged the commission to "finalize these rules without delay," noting that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 mandated competition in the TV navigation marketplace.

Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) said that the discussions with the programmers and FCC officials were a "very important step forward." She also downplayed a letter that 63 House Democrats sent to the FCC last week urging them to delay the vote because of the programmers' copyright concerns. "I approached a few members who signed that letter," she said. "I asked them why they had signed it. There was silence."

Robert Johnson, the founder of BET, and Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) also joined them in the call supporting the proposal, along with representatives from Consumers Union, the Writers Guild of America West and Best Buy. – *Variety*

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It had all the hype of a Super Bowl matchup. But it played out like an episode of "Bowling for Dollars" with more gutter balls than strikes. Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump met in their first debate Monday night playing it mostly safe and trotting out familiar policy points — regardless of what questions moderator Lester Holt asked.

For all the post-debate analysis, it would be interesting to see just how many viewers, after 45 minutes, fell asleep, turned the channel or simply went to bed. There was Mr. Trump, the Republican candidate, seemingly calm out of the gate but increasing agitated,

eventually flailing but failing to land many policy punches. There was Mrs. Clinton, the pre-ordained (according to hacked party emails) Democrat standard-bearer, spouting the Dems' boilerplate and grinning (or was she grimacing?) at Trump's fragmented retorts.

Nowhere evident at this snoozefest was the level of engagement and illumination in the first debate between President Obama and Mitt Romney. Instead of serious discourse on what are very serious issues facing this nation, what viewers got mostly was a lot of ineffectual jousting. The first debate nevertheless did confirm the caliber of this year's major party presidential candidates, which explains why they haven't lit any fires among undecided voters. Indeed, if this were a Pay-Per-View event, more than a few viewers would be asking a refund. – *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* editorial



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