



July 2026

NCTC aims to create 'easy button for AI'



Following initial pilots, the National Content & Technology Cooperative is preparing to commercialize a subscription-based AI platform for its 700-plus membership of small and midsize broadband operators.

[Jeff Baumgartner](#)

July 27, 2026

(Source: www.lightreading.com)

As it has done in areas such as mobile, broadband equipment, programming carriage deals and managed Wi-Fi systems, the National Content & Technology Cooperative (NCTC) is now using its heft to help hundreds of small and midsized operators reap the benefits of AI.

To that aim, NCTC has established an AI Center of Excellence (CoE) that will cultivate AI expertise, identify and develop best practices and a range of use cases for AI, and launch a subscription-based AI platform for members. NCTC cuts programming and tech deals for more than 700 operators that collectively serve more than 40 million customers.

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Charter bulks up on hotspot data, 4K streaming with 'Unlimited Plus Premium'



Amid a move away from by-the-Gig plans, Charter has launched a new 'Unlimited Plus Premium' plan for Spectrum Mobile that features more hotspot data than its other unlimited plans.

Jeff Baumgartner

July 22, 2026

(Source: www.lightreading.com)

Charter Communications appears to be going further upmarket in mobile with a new premium-level plan that tacks on more mobile and hotspot data, support for 4K streaming, phone financing credits and a built-in smartwatch data plan.

That new, no-contract plan, called Unlimited Plus Premium, goes for \$50 per line per month when customers take multiple lines, or \$60 per month for a single line.

Those customers get 20 gigabytes of international roaming data before speeds are reduced, along with 50GB of mobile hotspot data before speeds are reduced. It's currently the only Spectrum Mobile plan that offers 4K video streaming over the cellular networks (Verizon is Charter's MVNO partner for residential customers).

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CableLabs targets interoperability for XGS-PON and CPON



Taking a page from the DOCSIS playbook, CableLabs is working on interoperability for XGS-PON products used by cable operators and exploring the same for future coherent PON tech.

Jeff Baumgartner

July 14, 2026

(Source: www.lightwaveonline.com)

The access networks of the cable industry are no longer one-size-fits all. While hybrid fiber/coax (HFC) and DOCSIS represent the bulk of those networks, cable operators also continue to deploy different flavors of PON in greenfields (for edge-outs and

entries into new markets) along with a growing number of government-subsidized builds in rural areas.

And the cable industry has long benefitted from the interoperability of DOCSIS customer premises equipment (CPE) and cable modem termination systems (CMTSs). Those interoperability efforts have established a more competitive market that enables operators to pick and choose different vendors and, of course, get better pricing. CableLabs has continued that work with DOCSIS 4.0, in the form of interoperability tests along with a certification program.

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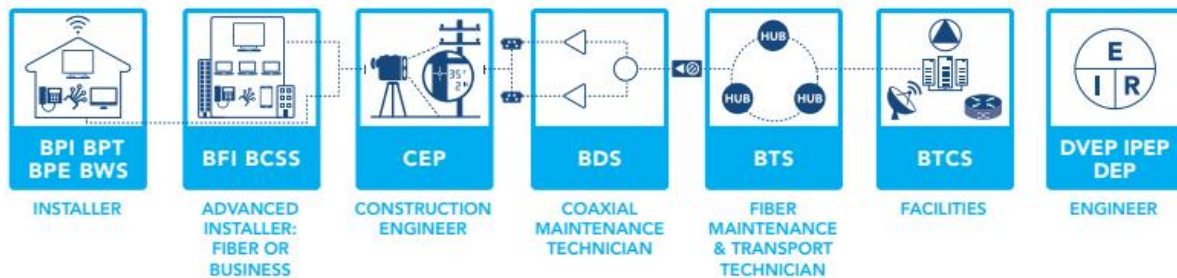
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