Great Lakes CHAPTER

SCTE
Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers
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Comcast plan to spin-off cable TV channels should avoid regulatory hurdles – analyst

Comcast's plan to spin-out the bulk of its cable TV networks won't face an FCC review or antitrust issues, says New Street's Blair Levin. The 'X factor' is whether President-elect Donald Trump will try to hinder the transaction.

Jeff Baumgartner, Senior Editor

November 20, 2024

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(Source: Westend61 GmbH/Alamy Stock Photo)

Comcast's **plan to spin-off a subset of NBCUniversal's cable TV network portfolio** should be able to move forward without coming up against any major regulatory hurdles, a top policy analyst said.

Comcast announced Wednesday that it intends to create a new, publicly traded company comprising the bulk of its cable TV networks, including USA Network, CNBC, MSNBC, Oxygen, E!, Syfy and Golf Channel, along with digital assets that include Fandango, Rotten Tomatoes, GolfNow and Sports Engine.

Not included in the planned spin-off is the NBC broadcast network, the Peacock premium streaming service and Bravo, a cable network that fuels Peacock with original programming and series, including the "Below Deck" and "Real Housewives" franchises. It is not yet clear how the plan will affect the structure between NBC News, MSNBC and CNBC.

Comcast estimates that the networks tied into the spin-off have a reach of about 70 million US households. The networks in the group generated about $7 billion in revenue for the 12 months ended September 30, 2024. Though the spin-off will operate as an independent business, it will enter into a transition services agreement with NBCU.

The transaction for what will result in a unit currently being referred to as "SpinCo" is expected to take a year. SpinCo is set to be led by Mark Lazarus, the current chairman of NBCU Media Group, in the CEO role. Anand Kini, current CFO of NBCU, will be the spin-off's CFO.

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Charter strikes deal to acquire Liberty Broadband

Charter has moved to acquire Liberty Broadband in a transaction that includes Liberty Broadband's stake in Charter but not GCI, Alaska's largest cable operator. GCI will be spun off as an independent public company.

[Jeff Baumgartner](), Senior Editor

November 13, 2024

3 Min Read

(Source: Charter Communications)

Charter Communications has secured a deal to acquire Liberty Broadband. The all-stock transaction includes Liberty Broadband's stake in Charter but does not include GCI, Alaska's largest cable operator.

Liberty Broadband's assets include a 26% stake in Charter (via about 45.6 million common shares), a 16% stake in analytics and ad measuring specialist Comscore and all of GCI. Alaskan operator GCI plans **to shut down its pay-TV services by mid-2025** and apply its resources toward broadband and mobile. Liberty Broadband also carries a current debt of $2.6 billion (excluding debt at GCI) that will be prepaid before closing or assumed by Charter.

Under the deal, Liberty Broadband has agreed to spin off GCI in a transaction expected to be taxable to Liberty Broadband and its stockholders. The companies expect the transaction to close on June 30, 2027, subject to the completion of the GCI spin-off and other closing conditions.

GCI, led by CEO and co-founder Ron Duncan, is slated to become an independent public company before close.

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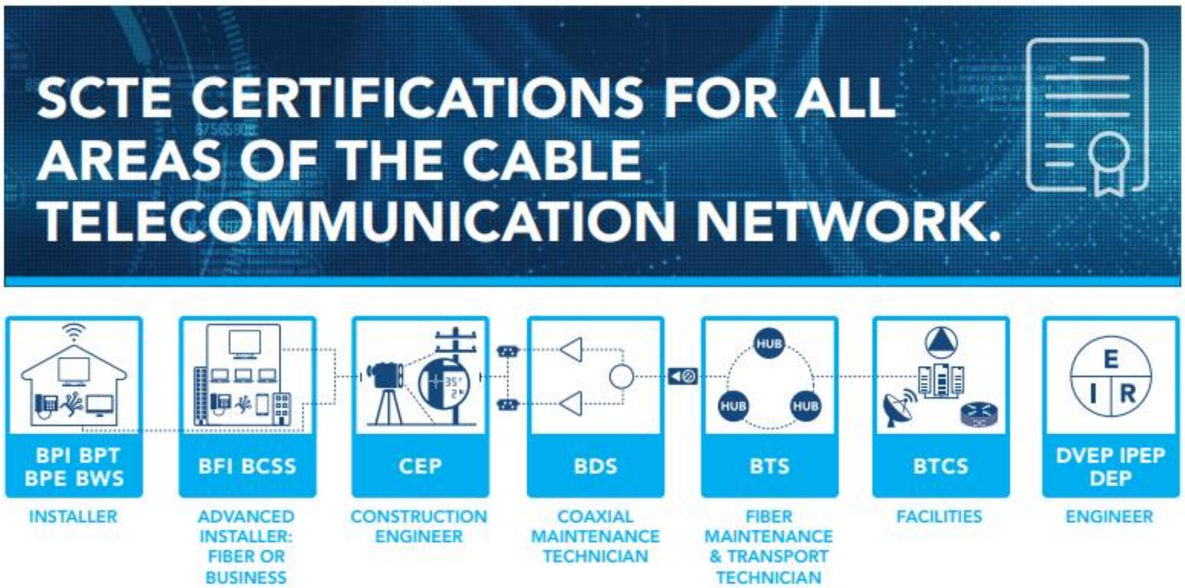

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