

Message from Curt Sumner, Executive Director, ACSM

Below is the latest from the Coalition.

Note that in the *TR Daily* there is a quote from Mr. Kaplan with the FCC indicating that the FCC “will do nothing to harm GPS in any way whatsoever.” One might take from this statement that high precision use of GPS as used by our community would be protected; however, we should not read too much into this statement.

There is still a long way to go to insure that GPS use by our community will not be harmed. In another statement, reported in *Politico*, Mr. Kaplan also said “poorly designed receivers” on legacy systems must be addressed to ensure efficient spectrum use. Such a statement could be interpreted to mean that “no harm to GPS whatsoever” has a different meaning. Perhaps it means that legacy systems (used by many in our community) have to be retooled, and regardless of how it is manipulated, the bottom line is likely to be that we, the users, will still take the financial hit, one way or another.

Thanks for assisting in keeping this matter in the forefront of our collective thoughts.

Curt

Coalition to Save Our GPS Clips January 18, 2012

[The Washington Post](#) reports that the latest round of results of LightSquared testing showing that it interferes with military and aviation operations had been a “last-ditch chance” for LightSquared to prove that its network was safe. The article notes that the company is slated to announce its business plans in the wake of the report today.

[TR Daily](#) reports that the FCC is continuing to wait for a recommendation from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) in the wake of GPS testing related to LightSquared, according to Rick Kaplan, chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

- "The bottom line at the moment is that the FCC is sort of waiting for NTIA to get back to us as to where things stand with the testing," Mr. Kaplan said yesterday at an event sponsored by the Broadband Breakfast Club. "Once we get it, we'll move on from there." He also reiterated that the FCC "will do nothing to harm GPS in any way whatsoever."

[Politico](#) reported that Kaplan took an indirect jab at the GPS industry Tuesday, saying the problem of “poorly designed receivers” on legacy systems must be addressed to ensure efficient spectrum use.

[Communications Daily](#) reports that a recent government recommendation that no further testing of LightSquared be conducted raises questions about the FCC’s ability to allow LightSquared to proceed. It notes that the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2012 prevents the agency from lifting conditions on LightSquared without resolving DOD concerns, and that the DOD’s position expressed in the recommendation may already prevent the FCC from allowing LightSquared to move forward. The article notes that LightSquared sent a letter to the NTIA saying “structural bias” within the PNT hurt the testing process.

[The Washington Post](#) reported that the Coalition to Save Our GPS issued a statement Monday saying that LightSquared has “been afforded every possible opportunity to make its technical case, and has failed to demonstrate that it can avoid interference to many critical GPS based activities.”

A [Pittsburgh Tribune Review](#) editorial argues that the FCC “must disregard White House favoritism so that LightSquared never hinders GPS functions crucial to U.S. commercial aviation and military operations.”

A [Rethink Wireless](#) article notes that Dish Network could benefit from the failure of an AT&T/T-Mobile merger and “the likely end of LightSquared’s hopes.”

LightSquared issued a [press release](#) announcing a wholesale agreement with Hometown Telecom, “a carrier specializing in low-cost, high-quality long distance plans from the world to India.” The release notes that it is LightSquared's first agreement with a carrier specializing in international services.

The [Kansas City Business Journal](#), [NextGov](#), [BGR](#), [BoatingIndustry.com](#) and [FINalternatives](#) continue to report that U.S. officials have determined that there is no practical solution to allow LightSquared's system to operate soon and recommended "no additional testing" of the planned network.

A cite list and links to the full text of these and other articles follow.

1. Dailywireless, January 17, 2012 Tuesday 10:59 PM EST, Dish Networks Speculation: AT&T?, LENGTH: 570 words
2. Kansas City Business Journal, January 17, 2012 Tuesday, Study says LightSquared disrupts GPS signals, BYLINE: Staff, LENGTH: 186 words
3. PR Newswire, January 17, 2012 Tuesday 8:30 AM EST, Hometown Telecom to Provide Mobile Broadband Services Using LightSquared's Network, LENGTH: 962 words, DATELINE: LOS ANGELES and RESTON, Va., Jan. 17, 2012
4. TR Daily, FCC WAITS FOR NTIA ON LightSquared, 381 words, 17 January 2012, By Paul Kirby
5. WHBL (Sheboygan, Wisc), Proposed 4G internet service would interfere with GPS systems in Wisconsin, Tuesday, January 17, 2012 9:13 a.m. CST
6. The Washington Post, Posted at 09:01 AM ET, 01/17/2012, The Circuit: White House weighs in on SOPA/PIPA, Zappos breached, Vivek Kundra to Salesforce, By Hayley Tsukayama
7. Fierce Wireless, LightSquared faces new roadblock after U.S. study finds GPS interference, January 17, 2012 — 10:23am ET | By Phil Goldstein
8. FINalternatives, Harbinger-Backed LightSquared Can't Be Fixed, Gov't. Agency Says, Jan 17 2012 | 12:52pm ET
9. The Motley Fool, "No Fair!" Says LightSquared, By Anders Bylund, January 17, 2012
10. Rethink Wireless, Dish can play all sides in US 4G fall-out, Satellite player could step into LightSquared breach, or command huge premium from AT&T, say analysts, By CAROLINE GABRIEL, Published: 17 January, 2012
11. BoatingIndustry.com, Federal committee: LightSquared network causes “harmful interference”, January 17, 2012
12. NextGov, Panel: LightSquared 'significantly interferes' with GPS receivers, BY BOB BREWIN 01/17/2012
13. The Washington Post, Another test finds LightSquared’s satellite service interferes with military, aviation operations, By Cecilia Kang, Tuesday, January 17, 9:10 PM

14. Bloomberg, AT&T Concerned U.S. Will 'Radically' Restrict Airwaves Bidding, By Todd Shields | January 17, 2012 03:50PM ET
15. Politico, FCC's Kaplan: 'Poorly designed receivers' undermine spectrum efficiency, By Eliza Krigman, 1/17/12 11:13 AM EST
16. Boy Genius Report, January 18, 2012 Wednesday 5:32 AM EST, LightSquared's 4G LTE network will always interfere with GPS, government says, LENGTH: 225 words
17. COMMUNICATIONS DAILY, January 18, 2012 Wednesday, LightSquared Interference Concerns Remain, Further Testing Not Necessary, Say DOD, DOT, SECTION: TODAY'S NEWS, LENGTH: 657 words
18. Pittsburgh Tribune Review, The LightSquared case: Conflicts of interests, Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Excerpts/Links to Full Text of Articles

Dailywireless, January 17, 2012 Tuesday 10:59 PM EST, Dish Networks Speculation: AT&T?, LENGTH: 570 words

AT&T is considering a pricey purchase of Dish Networks, speculates Bloomberg.

At \$50 a share, cited as a reasonable price by Alpine Mutual Funds, AT&T would have to pay a 77 percent premium for Dish, the highest in an acquisition greater than \$5 billion by a telecommunications company since 2000, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Verizon is buying AWS spectrum (1.7/2.1 GHz) from cable operators (SpectrumCo). That transaction would give Verizon Wireless some 56 percent more LTE spectrum than AT&T in the top 10 markets and 46 percent more in the top 100, reports Bloomberg. AT&T, whose 100.7 million wireless subscribers trail Verizon Wireless's 107.7 million, would have boosted its spectrum by 62 percent with the T-Mobile deal, according to UBS.

In addition to Dish, AT&T targets could include MetroPCS Communications, Leap Wireless and Clearwire, said, Philip Cusick, a JPMorgan Chase analyst in New York. But CDMA-based Leap or MetroPCS would be incompatible and face regulatory challenges. A Dish purchase by AT&T would be less of an issue for regulators, and they offer clean spectrum at 2.1 GHz.

Then there's Clearwire, which has some 60-80 MHz of spectrum in most large markets. The 2.6 GHz spectrum doesn't have the range of lower frequencies but it is well suited for urban environments. The 2.6 GHz spectrum is also a harmonized global frequency standard for FD-LTE and TD-LTE.

To read more click [here](#).

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Kansas City Business Journal, January 17, 2012 Tuesday, Study says LightSquared disrupts GPS signals, BYLINE: Staff, LENGTH: 186 words

U.S. officials evaluating the effect of LightSquared Inc.'s wireless service on global position systems said the technology disrupts GPS receivers, The Kansas City Star reports.

The National Executive Committee for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation & Timing said there's no practical solution to allow LightSquared's system to operate soon and recommended "no additional testing" in a Friday recommendation letter to the U.S. Commerce Department.

LightSquared rejected the conclusion as biased and asked the Federal Communications Commission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to take over any study.

To read more click [here](#).

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PR Newswire, January 17, 2012 Tuesday 8:30 AM EST, Hometown Telecom to Provide Mobile Broadband Services Using LightSquared's Network, LENGTH: 962 words, DATELINE: LOS ANGELES and RESTON, Va., Jan. 17, 2012

LightSquared(TM), a wholesale carrier building a nationwide wireless broadband network that will create consumer choice and drive industry innovation, and Hometown Telecom, a carrier specializing in low-cost, high-quality long distance plans from the world to India, have announced a wholesale agreement that will enable Hometown to offer their customers branded broadband services. This is LightSquared's first agreement with a carrier specializing in international services.

Hometown Telecom, which was ranked No. 81 on the 2010 Inc. 500 list, serves the "Non Resident Indian" community under the IndiaLD brand, which provides international long distance service to India. Hometown Telecom offers monthly long distance plans to more than 65,000 subscribers, and facilitates more than 50 million minutes to India per month. The company's other services include United Conferencing, the world's first free global conference calling service with access numbers in 30 countries on five continents. With LightSquared, Hometown Telecom will be able to offer its own competitively-priced wireless data, voice and other services, delivered over a variety of devices, and expand its business to other markets.

"With LightSquared, Hometown Telecom has a unique opportunity to provide our rapidly expanding base of tech-savvy subscribers with high-speed wireless data and voice services," said David Schofield, president of Hometown Telecom. "Our customers have come to expect affordable long distance plans which are unmatched in quality of service, and now we can enhance our portfolio with access to LightSquared's competitively priced, state-of-the-art 4G network."

Hometown Telecom is LightSquared's 37th wholesale customer, joining a diverse group of companies, including wireless carriers, device manufacturers, nationwide retailers, regional phone companies, CLECs and mobile content providers who plan to use LightSquared's network to offer competitively-priced wireless service to their customers.

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TR Daily, FCC WAITS FOR NTIA ON LightSquared, 381 words, 17 January 2012, By Paul Kirby

The FCC is continuing to wait for a recommendation from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in the wake of Global Positioning System testing related to LightSquared, Inc.'s network, Rick Kaplan, chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, said today.

"The bottom line at the moment is that the FCC is sort of waiting for NTIA to get back to us as to where things stand with the testing," Mr. Kaplan said this morning at an event sponsored by the Broadband Breakfast Club (see separate story). "Once we get it, we'll move on from there." He also reiterated that the FCC "will do nothing to harm GPS in any way whatsoever."

On Jan. 13, federal government agencies dependent on GPS said they have concluded that the company's proposed nationwide L-band LTE (long term evolution) network could not operate without causing harmful interference to GPS devices and they recommended that no further testing be conducted (TRDaily, Jan. 13). The agencies sent a letter to NTIA Administrator Lawrence E. Strickling.

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WHBL (Sheboygan, Wisc), Proposed 4G internet service would interfere with GPS systems in Wisconsin, Tuesday, January 17, 2012 9:13 a.m. CST

UNDATED (WSAU) Wisconsin farmers, pilots, and land surveyors say their GPS systems would be wrecked by a plan to provide high-speed Internet service around the country. Light-Squared Incorporated is offering "4G" service that would meet the federal government's goal of providing broadband Internet coverage nationwide by 2015. But a new government report says the Light-Squared system would create interference in three-fourths of the nation's G-P-S devices, which operate on weaker signals.

Some of those systems are used by the military -- and the Federal Communications Commission is barred from approving signals that interfere with the military's G-P-S locators.

Sean Elliott of the Experimental Aircraft Association in Oshkosh says instrument-guided landing systems are threatened by G-P-S interference. Dodge County land information officer Joyce Fiacco says Light-Squared's signal would affect surveying equipment, and set their work back 20 years. Casey Langan of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation says farmers use G-P-S to plant crops and apply proper amounts of pesticides.

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The Washington Post, Posted at 09:01 AM ET, 01/17/2012, The Circuit: White House weighs in on SOPA/PIPA, Zappos breached, Vivek Kundra to Salesforce, By Hayley Tsukayama

GPS industry calls out LightSquared : Save Our GPS, an group representing the global-positioning satellite industry, issued a statement Monday saying that LightSquared has "been afforded every possible opportunity to make its technical case, and has failed to demonstrate that it can avoid interference to many critical GPS based activities."

The industry has been at odds with the broadband satellite company over studies that show that the proposed Internet network will interfere with GPS satellites used for navigation and other purposes. LightSquared recently asked the Federal Communications Commission — which approved the company's network on the condition that it did not interfere with GPS systems — to affirm the company's right to its licensed spectrum.

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Fierce Wireless, LightSquared faces new roadblock after U.S. study finds GPS interference, January 17, 2012 — 10:23am ET | By Phil Goldstein

Wholesale LTE provider LightSquared faces new challenges to its plans to deploy its network after a federal advisory panel said on Friday that LightSquared's proposed network continues to interfere with GPS receivers and that no further testing is needed as a result. However, LightSquared sharply criticized the advisory board's work as "unfair and shrouded from the public eye" and threatened potential litigation over the issue.

In a letter to the sent to Lawrence Strickling, head of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which is conducting tests of LightSquared's network, the National Space-Based Position, Navigation, and Timing Advisory Board said that testing of both LightSquared's original network plans and subsequent modifications show that LightSquared's proposed terrestrial network still presents harmful interference to GPS receivers. The panel advises the federal government on GPS issues.

"There appear to be no practical solutions or mitigations that would permit the LightSquared broadband service, as proposed, to operate in the next few months or years without significantly interfering with GPS," Ashton Carter, deputy secretary of defense, and John Porcari, deputy secretary of transportation, wrote in the letter. "As a result, no additional testing is warranted at this time."

The decision of the advisory panel is not binding, and the NTIA is still conducting its own analysis. The NTIA said the panel's recommendation with "help inform" its decision before it makes its recommendations to the FCC.

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FINalternatives, Harbinger-Backed LightSquared Can't Be Fixed, Gov't. Agency Says, Jan 17 2012 | 12:52pm ET

Harbinger Capital Partners' wireless Internet venture suffered another body-blow last week when nine federal agencies unanimously recommended an end to the ambitious plan.

The Space-Based Positioning, Navigation and Timing National Executive Committee wrote to the Commerce Dept., saying that no solution could be found the prevent LightSquared's network from interfering with global positioning systems and that testing of the network should be stopped.

"Based upon this testing and analysis, there appear to be no practical solutions or mitigations that would permit the LightSquared broadband service, as proposed, to operate within the next few months or years without significantly interfering with GPS," the group wrote. The recommendation is not binding on either the Commerce Dept., or the Federal Communications Commission, which will make the final decision.

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The Motley Fool, "No Fair!" Says LightSquared, By Anders Bylund, January 17, 2012

Sprint Nextel (NYSE: S) might be stuck with its Clearwire (Nasdaq: CLWR) network for the foreseeable future.

The mobile service provider hopes to add privately held LightSquared as a second source of high-speed data networking. But that service is running into regulatory roadblocks and might be dead in the water. LightSquared's proposed 4G-LTE network, backed by a hybrid of earthbound radio towers plus a unique direct satellite uplink, may interfere with GPS devices.

Sprint has extended LightSquared's deadlines for FCC approval, but another month might not be enough. Last week, a White House committee said that the network is an impossible dream.

The National Space-Based ...

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Rethink Wireless, Dish can play all sides in US 4G fall-out, Satellite player could step into LightSquared breach, or command huge premium from AT&T, say analysts, By CAROLINE GABRIEL, Published: 17 January, 2012

The US market continues to feel the fall-out from the failure of the AT&T/T-Mobile merger and the likely end of LightSquared's hopes. Satellite firm Dish Network could be the beneficiary of both. It could offer its own plans for an LTE network in mobile satellite bands, as an alternative to LightSquared's, and could either acquire TMO itself or - as some analysts now think - could command a huge price to be bought by AT&T.

AT&T is so desperate for new spectrum, to support LTE expansion after 2014, that it could pay "the highest premium in a decade" for Dish, believe analysts at Stifel Nicolaus. Assuming Verizon's multifaceted deals to buy spectrum from cablecos and Leap are approved, AT&T's options will be limited until the US holds new auctions. TMO would have boosted AT&T's LTE capacity by over 60%, according to the research note, but Dish would at least bring between two and four more years of 4G expansion. But the cellco would have to pay a high price - Wall Street observers think \$50 a share would be reasonable, even though that would represent a 77% premium, the highest in a US telecoms purchase over \$5bn since 2000, according to Bloomberg.

Dish CEO Joseph Clayton hardly dampened rising speculation when he told Bloomberg last week that "we're open to all possible options ... We could be acquired or we could be the acquirer."

Also seeing some of its 4G plans in disarray is Sprint, which will lose a spectrum partner and network hosting customer, should LightSquared's plan be vetoed because of GPS interference issues. This could push the third cellco back into the arms of its WiMAX joint venture, Clearwire, which has been relegated to a supporting role in Sprint's 4G strategy despite its plentiful swathes of spectrum. Whether or not the two firms intensify the multiyear - but limited - deal they announced last year, it will require a rapid change in the foundations on which Clearwire built its original model.

For one thing, its main wholesale customers apart from Sprint were the cablecos Cox, Comcast and BrightHouse Networks. The first two have now thrown their lot in with Verizon's LTE platform, while BrightHouse has just announced that it will adopt a Wi-Fi route for its wireless strategy, emulating CableVision. It will work with carrier Wi-Fi provider BelAir Networks.

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BoatingIndustry.com, Federal committee: LightSquared network causes “harmful interference”, January 17, 2012

WASHINGTON – The proposed 4G-LTE network being built by LightSquared was rejected by a federal committee, stating that the network caused “harmful interference” to many GPS receivers and was not compatible with GPS-dependent aircraft safety systems.

The nine bodies that make up the National Space-Based Position, Navigation and Timing Executive Committee unanimously concluded that LightSquared’s proposed network did not mitigate the harmful interference caused to the GPS bandwidth and as a result the group said that no further testing is warranted at this time.

The committee also said that early analysis of the results showed that the LightSquared network didn’t cause damage cellular phones, which are already outfitted to block the signals, but caused significant interference to other general purpose GPS receivers. The solutions proposed by LightSquared were also deemed incompatible with aircraft safety systems that warn pilots of approaching terrain.

The company laid out possible solutions for mitigating the GPS interference at the 2011 International Marine Electronics Expo in October, but the NMEA and conference attendees were skeptical of the proposed solutions. Attendees at the conference expressed worry that the new network would interfere with their products, creating problems for customer’s using their GPS devices.

The PNT committee worked with LightSquared to test possible solutions that would have prevented the LightSquared network from interfering with general use GPS, but none of the proposed methods were accepted.

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NextGov, Panel: LightSquared 'significantly interferes' with GPS receivers, BY BOB BREWIN 01/17/2012

The multiagency National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) Executive Committee reported Jan. 13 that tests of the broadband wireless network planned by startup LightSquared showed that its transmitters would cause harmful interference to many Global Positioning System receivers. As such, no further tests are required at this time, the committee concluded.

The information was included in a letter to Lawrence Strickling, chief of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and assistant secretary of Commerce for

communications and information, from Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter and Deputy Transportation Secretary John Porcari, co-chairmen of the executive committee. They also reported the Federal Aviation Administration concluded that LightSquared's network, designed to operate in frequencies adjacent to the GPS band, is "not compatible with several GPS-dependent safety-of-life systems."

Carter and Porcari said, "Based upon this testing and analysis, there appears to be no practical solutions or mitigations that would permit the LightSquared broadband service, as proposed, to operate in the next few months or years without significantly interfering with GPS. As a result, no additional testing is required at this time."

In a Jan. 12 letter, Strickling told Julius Genachowski, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, that the LightSquared network also could interfere with other global navigation satellite systems. He did not identify these systems, but Russia has such a system in operation, called GLONASS, with 24 satellites and the European Union plans to have a 22-satellite system similar to GPS, called Galileo, in operation by 2014.

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The Washington Post, Another test finds LightSquared's satellite service interferes with military, aviation operations, By Cecilia Kang, Tuesday, January 17, 9:10 PM

Federal regulators have renewed charges that the mobile Internet service LightSquared interferes with military and aviation operations, in what experts say is a severe blow to the fledgling business.

The fresh test results, released late last week, had been a last-ditch chance for Reston-based LightSquared to prove that its satellite service was safe. But the results confirmed earlier findings that the satellite network would interfere with key Global Positioning System technology used to steer planes and operate sensitive construction and military equipment.

The company is slated to announce Wednesday its business plans in the wake of the report.

Some government officials said the problems didn't seem fixable.

"There appear to be no practical solutions or mitigations that would permit the LightSquared broadband service, as proposed, to operate in the next few months or years without significantly interfering with GPS," wrote Ashton Carter, deputy secretary of defense, and John Porcari, deputy secretary of transportation, in a letter. The officials head the inter-agency National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation and Timing group.

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Bloomberg, AT&T Concerned U.S. Will 'Radically' Restrict Airwaves Bidding, By Todd Shields | January 17, 2012 03:50PM ET

(Bloomberg) -- AT&T Inc. said it was concerned that U.S. regulators will “radically” restrict its ability to buy the rights to airwaves to meet growing demand for smartphones and tablet computers.

The second-largest U.S. mobile telephone company, which dropped a bid last month to increase airwaves holdings by buying rival T-Mobile USA Inc., has said the Federal Communications Commission shouldn't limit participants in auctions of unused television airwaves.

“We are concerned that the FCC might actually design auction rules that radically restrict AT&T's ability to participate in these auctions,” Robert Quinn, AT&T's senior vice president-federal regulatory in Washington, said today in an e-mailed statement.

Congress is considering legislation to authorize TV airwaves auctions proposed by President Barack Obama's administration. The sales are supported by Dallas-based AT&T and its larger rival, Verizon Wireless of Basking Ridge, New Jersey.

FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski said last week that proposals before Congress would prevent the agency from exercising its traditional prerogative to set terms for auction participation.

“It would not be wise to prejudge or micromanage FCC auction design,” Genachowski, a Democrat, said in a Jan. 11 speech at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

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Politico, FCC's Kaplan: 'Poorly designed receivers' undermine spectrum efficiency, By Eliza Krigman, 1/17/12 11:13 AM EST

FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Chief Rick Kaplan took an indirect jab at the GPS industry Tuesday, saying the problem of “poorly designed receivers” on legacy systems must be addressed to ensure efficient spectrum use.

When asked by a reporter about the issue, Kaplan said that “receivers go far beyond the GPS issue” and remained vague about what the commission plans to do about the problem. His remarks came at a broadband breakfast event convened at Clyde's in downtown Washington.

Examining both sides of the issue, transmitting and receiving, is key, Kaplan said.

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Boy Genius Report, January 18, 2012 Wednesday 5:32 AM EST, LightSquared's 4G LTE network will always interfere with GPS, government says, LENGTH: 225 words

In a memo released on Friday, the National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation and Timing Executive Committee said the nine federal agencies that make up the body have concluded unanimously that none of LightSquared's proposals would overcome the network's interference with GPS technologies. The announcement comes as a crushing blow for the startup, which is looking to build an LTE network with the company's 1600MHz frequency. Preliminary testing last year showed that LightSquared's planned network interfered with GPS. After a handful of rebuttals, changes, and more testing, the

government has decided to pull the plug and request no further testing. The Federal Aviation Administration also concluded the network would interfere with aircraft safety systems."Based upon this testing and analysis, there appear to be no practical solutions or mitigations that would permit the LightSquared broadband service, as proposed, to operate in the next few months or years without significantly interfering with GPS. As a result, no additional testing is warranted at this time," the memo said. LightSquared slammed the decision, claiming the agency has a biased agenda that is in favor of the GPS industry. Late last year, LightSquared reiterated that the GPS industry is at fault and it demanded approval from the FCC to begin deploying its network.

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COMMUNICATIONS DAILY, January 18, 2012 Wednesday, LightSquared Interference Concerns Remain, Further Testing Not Necessary, Say DOD, DOT, SECTION: TODAY'S NEWS, LENGTH: 657 words

A letter from the Space-Based Positioning Navigation and Timing (PNT) Executive Committee to the NTIA released Friday is raising questions about the FCC's ability to allow LightSquared to move forward, said industry executives. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2012, signed New Year's Eve, which prevents the agency from lifting conditions on LightSquared without resolving Defense Department concerns, could be in play due to the letter, the executives said. LightSquared said the PNT process for review was deeply flawed and the NTIA should assert itself to take over the next testing phase. The PNT committee, co-chaired by the DOT and DOD deputy secretaries, works to "advise and coordinate federal departments and agencies on matters concerning," according to the PNT website. The PNT letter, signed by Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter and Deputy Secretary of Transportation John Porcari, and addressed to NTIA Administrator Larry Strickling, voices continued serious concerns about LightSquared's proposed services. The PNT committee said LightSquared would cause interference issues, while the Federal Aviation Administration found the "proposals are not compatible with several GPS-dependent aircraft safety-of-flight systems." Those findings mean "there appear to be no practical solutions or mitigations" that would permit the LightSquared broadband service as proposed, to operate in the next few months or years without significantly interfering with GPS. As a result, no additional testing is warranted at this time, the letter said.

NTIA hasn't received the report from PNT, said an NTIA spokeswoman. "In coordination with other federal agencies, NTIA plans to ultimately develop a recommendation based on our analysis of the data," she said. "The PNT findings will help inform our final recommendation. Our analysis is still underway and we are examining the full range of scenarios so that we can make a final recommendation that is informed by the facts. We continue to work in consultation with the FCC, government agencies, and industry and we are working to address the issues promptly and conclusively."

LightSquared also sent a letter to Strickling Friday, saying "structural bias" within the PNT's systems engineering forum hurt the process. That group, which was asked by the PNT executive committee to take up an NTIA request to validate the results of earlier testing, "intended to use this process from the outset as a means to harm LightSquared and benefit GPS manufacturers with whom it has inappropriately aligned itself," the company said. As such, it said NTIA should take control to ensure unbiased testing.

Based on the DOD's position expressed in the PNT letter, the NDAA may already prevent the FCC from moving forward LightSquared without a major change of heart from the Defense Department,

executives said. The NDAA says the FCC isn't allowed to lift conditions on LightSquared until it has resolved concerns of widespread harmful interference by such commercial terrestrial operations to DOD GPS devices. The NDAA also says the defense secretary will produce a review of possible GPS interference issues within 90 days. "The law is clear that the FCC may not act unless the DoD concerns are addressed," said a spokesman for Rep. Michael Turner, R-Ohio, who added the GPS language to the legislation. LightSquared didn't comment on the legislation.

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Pittsburgh Tribune Review, The LightSquared case: Conflicts of interests, Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Obama administration attempts to make political supporters' ventures into business winners aren't limited to "green" boondoggles. It also favors a "connected" cellular/satellite communications firm targeting frequencies that disrupt GPS receivers.

In 2005, four main backers of LightSquared, then SkyTerra, raised \$150,000-plus in political donations for Barack Obama. The day it received a favorable Federal Communications Commission ruling, Mr. Obama invested \$50,000.

To date, big Obama donor Phil Falcone -- a hedge fund operator facing an unrelated Securities and Exchange Commission insider-trading case -- has put \$2 billion-plus into LightSquared.

In September, an Air Force Space Command general and the national GPS office director said the White House pressured them to minimize concerns before Congress about LightSquared and military communications.

And last week, deputy secretaries of Transportation and Defense wrote that testing showed "no practical solutions" for LightSquared's interference with GPS receivers and incompatibility with GPS-based aircraft safety systems.

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