

MEDIA INFORMATION

FCC Votes to Open Local Phone Firms To Competition

The Wall Street Journal
September 18, 1992

WASHINGTON—The Federal Communications Commission took the first steps toward opening local telephone monopolies to competition.

At yesterday's meeting, Alfred Sikes, FCC chairman, said the commission was taking "an historical step" in opening up local phone networks to competitors. The agency, he said, is "removing some—and contemplates removing more—governmental regulation from one of the last monopoly preserves in the U.S."

The decision means that business customers can use the new carriers, including **Metropolitan Fiber Systems Inc.**, as well as the long-distance companies, as alternatives to the local telephone company. "This signals the end of an era for the local phone company monopoly," said Royce Holland, president of Metropolitan Fiber, which operates fiber-optic networks in 14 cities.

Mr. Holland said the decision will allow Metropolitan Fiber to "extend our current services to almost every business in America."

FCC Moves to Increase Competition Among Local Phone Service Providers

The Los Angeles Times
Sept. 18, 1992

FCC rings up more competition

USA Today
Sept. 14, 1992

FCC allows more competition in local telephone exchanges

San Francisco Examiner
September 18, 1992

WASHINGTON—The Federal Communications Commission moved Thursday to open the \$90 billion local telephone exchange market to new competition.

FCC Chairman Alfred Sikes said access to local markets was "one of the few remaining monopoly reserves of the American telephone business."

"This is the most significant decision to open up a monopoly market since the Execunet decision in 1978 opened up the long-distance industry to competition," said Royce Holland, president of **MFS Communications Co. in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.**, which has fought for several years to bring competition to local phone markets.

"This decision requires (local exchange carriers) to open up bottleneck facilities to competitors in a fashion never before mandated by the FCC," the FCC statement said.

FCC ACTS TO SPUR LOCAL COMPETITION IN PHONE SERVICES ACCESS TO BELL NETWORKS Vote Is a Step Toward Allowing Customers a Choice Among a Number of Carriers

New York Times
September 18, 1992

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17—The Federal Communications Commission voted today to expand competition in local telephone service.

The actions is the first step toward a day when businesses and consumers will be able to choose the company that provides them with local telephone service, just as they now can decide which

company provides long-distance service. The commission's move is an important, if still limited, step toward making the \$90 billion market for local service as robustly competitive as the \$55 billion long-distance market, where prices have fallen as A.T.&T., MCI, and Sprint compete ferociously for customers.

HOLD THE PHONE! Metropolitan Fibers breaks down barriers to competition with Baby Bells

Richmond Times Dispatch
October 12, 1992

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration went shopping last spring for a high-quality telecommunications system at its new headquarters in Washington, D.C.

NASA needed a high-speed, fiber-optic system to connect its main computer with other terminals in its local network, and it needed the system in place by the beginning of May.

But the agency didn't pick Cheaspeak & Potomac Telephone Co. of the District of Columbia.

Instead, it chose **Metropolitan Fiber Systems Inc.**, one of the leaders in a fast-growing industry of "alternative access" suppliers of telephone service.

Another MFS customer, in Northern Virginia, is the regional office of an international service company where telecommunications mean everything because it does a huge volume of business over its telephone lines.

The company selected MFS instead of C&P as its primary provider of local-access telecommunications services.

"Some people want to know why we use an alternative access vendor," said a company official. "It's survivability, reliability and performance, and it keeps the other guy honest."

The "other guy" is C&P of Virginia and its parent, Bell Atlantic Corp., one of seven "Baby Bells," which are facing competition where they once least suspected it—local telephone service.

The challenge is led by MFS, a Chicago-area company that leaped into the Northern Virginia-D.C. market a year ago by purchasing Institutional Communications Co.

FCC opens Bell networks to competitors

Chicago Tribune
Sept. 18, 1992

MFS moves ahead with first commercial ATM net

Links 4 metro areas, to add 9 more next year.

Network World
December 7, 1992

OAKBROOK TERRACE, ILL.—**MFS Datanet, Inc.** last week detailed progress it is making in deploying the industry's first commercial Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) wide-area network.

The carrier has installed switches in Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C. and Boston.

The network will be expanded over the next year to support nine other cities in which MFS Datanet operates fiber-based metropolitan-area networks, enabling the carrier to offer what it is calling High-Speed LAN Interconnection services. It plans to serve northern New Jersey, the 14th metropolitan area, from its New York switch.

NASA Selects MFS

Lan Technology
January 1993

A September decision by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will spur the growth of the handful of small companies that provide LAN links to big business and government agencies.

Corporate LAN users such as Ping Li are the beneficiaries. Li could have done the conventional thing when he hooked up the local area networks between the old and new headquarters buildings of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Washington D.C. He could have called C&P Telephone, the local Bell company.

But Li, the acting branch chief for ADP user services at NASA called in **MFS Datanet (Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.)**, a small company that competes in the local access market. Because they offer all fiber networks, the competitive access companies offer LAN users features and cost savings that the Bell companies cannot.

MFS Datanet is the largest competitive access provider with fiber networks running 1,000 route miles in 14 metropolitan areas.

METROPOLITAN FIBER SYSTEMS' CHICAGO NETWORK REMAINS FULLY OPERATIONAL DURING LOOP FLOODING

First Information Service
April 17, 1992

FCC, in 'historic step,' opens up \$90b local telephone market

The Boston Globe
Sept. 18, 1992

MFS
METROPOLITAN FIBER SYSTEMS