What Others are Saying about the AT&T / T-Mobile Deal

**FCC’s Copps not pleased with AT&T bid for T-Mobile**

FCC Commissioner Michael Copps said AT&T’s $39 billion bid to buy Deutsche Telekom AG’s T-Mobile USA “may be an even steeper climb” than the Comcast-NBCU merger, which he voted against.

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**Not so fast, Ma Bell**

A duopoly would in the end reduce choice for American consumers, and be hard to reverse. Best to block it.

The Economist
March 26, 2011

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**T-Mobile Deal Faces Antitrust Barriers**

The merger is likely to be of particular concern to antitrust enforcers because the industry’s two dominant companies—Verizon Wireless, a joint venture of Vodafone Group PLC and Verizon Communications Inc., and AT&T—are already so far ahead of anyone else, with more than 90 million subscribers each, raising the specter of an effective duopoly in mobile telephony.

The Wall Street Journal
March 21, 2011

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**T-Mobile Deal Faces Antitrust Barriers**

Herbert Hovenkamp, a University of Iowa law professor and antitrust specialist, said the deal would also have a hard time meeting new merger guidelines recently issued by the Department of Justice. “It’s a pretty highly concentrated market,” he said. “The guidelines would say this is a highly questionable merger unless there is a significant provable efficiency.”

The Wall Street Journal
March 21, 2011

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**ANALYSIS—AT&T fully loaded for Washington showdown**

Catherine Sloan, a vice president at Computer and Communications Industry Association, called AT&T’s latest deal a “lose-lose for consumers.”

The Wall Street Journal
March 21, 2011

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**Reuters**
March 22, 2011
Clearwire CEO Expresses Concerns With AT&T Deal

It’s not just the other carriers that will be hurt by the deal, Clearwire CEO Stanton said, noting that a more powerful AT&T could squeeze handset makers, content providers and equipment suppliers.

The Wall Street Journal
March 24, 2011

AT&T files with FCC to acquire T-Mobile

Gigi Sohn, president of public interest group Public Knowledge, said in a statement that AT&T will spend the next few months spending millions of dollars on lobbying efforts to get the deal through. “All of that effort and all of that money cannot disguise the simple, fundamental fact that AT&T in this one transaction will fundamentally reshape the wireless industry in ways that will hurt consumers, raising prices, restricting innovation and limiting choice,” she said.

Fierce Wireless
April 21, 2011

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Fierce Wireless
April 21, 2011

AT&T Files Papers to Take Over T-Mobile USA’s Wireless Licenses

“No matter how many high-priced lobbying firms AT&T hires, it won’t be able to fool Americans into thinking the reconstitution of the Ma Bell monopoly is a good thing,” Free Press Research Director S. Derek Turner said in a statement.

All Things Digital
April 21, 2011

AT&T bid for T-Mobile USA probed

“AT&T is on a spectrum buying binge, including both this Qualcomm acquisition and the recent announcement that it will acquire T-Mobile,” said Steven Berry, the head of the Washington-based Rural Cellular Association. “These actions are further proof that AT&T is doing everything possible to strengthen its already dominant position in the wireless industry at the expense of competition.”

Financial Times
March 29, 2011

Spectrum Of Choices Confronts AT&T Review

Unless regulators want to end up with a duopoly, they need to draw the line somewhere.

The Wall Street Journal
April 28, 2011