Wireless

The FCC should preserve one vacant TV channel for use by licensed and unlicensed wireless microphones after the TV incentive auction, and allow unlicensed mics to operate in some portion of the duplex gap, said the Performing Arts Wireless Microphone Working Group in an FCC filing posted Friday. The letter to the five commissioners outlines the working group’s recommendations for wireless mic operations following the auction. Allowing performing arts groups using 50 or more wireless devices to apply for a Part 74 license is a good step, but doesn’t go far enough, the group said. “To consider performing arts entities that use fewer than 50 wireless devices to be non-professional, and therefore ineligible to register their uses in the geo-location database, is a false assumption,” the working group said. “The majority of professional, not-for-profit theatres, symphony orchestras, presenting organizations, dance and opera companies, professional training programs and even touring Broadway productions across this country use fewer than 50 wireless devices on a regular basis.” The issue is critical to the performing arts sector, the working group said. Thousands of performances “are held by professional performing arts organizations each year and the use of wireless microphones is both essential to producing high-quality performances and also mitigates against significant public safety concerns,” it said. “Professional wireless capability, with successful interference protection, and sufficient spectrum to operate, is essential to our sector.” The filing was posted in docket 12-268.

Representatives of mic maker Shure pressed the FCC not to put TV stations in the “duplex gap” between uplink and downlink frequencies when they’re bought by carriers during the broadcast incentive auction, said a filing on a meeting with an aide to Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel. “That action, if taken, would eliminate critically needed spectrum in major markets leaving absolutely no interference-free exclusive UHF spectrum available to support essential licensed wireless microphone operations, particularly those used in emergencies and breaking newsgathering,” Shure said. The filing was in docket 12-268.

Most mobile operators believe mobile broadband capacity and IoT are the primary drivers behind 5G development, said a Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) 5G white paper released Monday. TIA also said 71 percent of mobile operators surveyed think Asia will lead 5G development, and one-third of operators responding to the survey expect their companies to launch commercial 5G service by 2021. The remaining two-thirds don’t expect to have full commercial service available until after 2022, TIA said.

Global smartphone shipments in Q2 reached 304 million units, a 1.9 percent increase sequentially from Q1, said TrendForce, a Taiwanese research firm, Monday in a report. The firm thinks shipment growth slowed in Q2 “as vendors prepared to launch their flagship devices in this year’s second half,” it said. The firm downgraded its outlook for calendar 2015 and now expects unit growth to climb 8.2 percent from 2014, instead of the 11.6 percent growth foreseen in its previous forecast. The firm blamed the downgrade on “the negative global economic outlook for the second half of this year.” The 8.2 percent increase, if the forecast holds true, would pale in comparison with the 26.5 percent unit growth in 2014 compared with 2013, the firm said.