

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF SILENT STA AND WAIVER OF 47 U.S.C. §312(G)**

Spectrum Evolution, Inc. (“SEI”) is the licensee of 34 digital low power television stations. All of these low power television stations were off the air beginning March 23, 2020 while SEI worked diligently to make the plans and take the steps necessary to get them all back on the air permanently as part of a larger network of stations to provide ATSC 3.0 service to the American public. Eight of the stations were returned to on-air operation earlier this month. The rest remain silent despite SEI’s best efforts to get them back on the air. (See more below.)

It has always been SEI’s goal to *permanently* return all of its silent stations – as well as 7 LPTV stations licensed to sister company, WatchTV, Inc. (“WatchTV”) (three of whose license stations currently are authorize operation in ATSC 3.0)<sup>1</sup> and a Next Gen licensed LPTV station owned by Gregory J. Herman (owner of WatchTV and Spectrum Evolution)<sup>2</sup> (and SEI/WatchTV’s as yet unbuilt construction permits) – to on-air operation, “to convert them to ATSC 3.0 to develop and deploy ATSC 3.0 television station infrastructure on LPTV licensed spectrum”<sup>3</sup> and, to operate them as a new network of stations providing the vastly superior service to the American public that comes with ATSC 3.0. “This includes the conversion of as built existing ATSC 1.0 licensees and the buildout of pending Construction Permits into ATSC 3.0 stations to comply with the FCC’s recent Broadcast Internet Report and Order.” (CCC Letter, Pg.1.) However, as a result of events and conditions beyond its control as further discussed below, WatchTV/SEI will not be able to return the stations on the attached list (“Exhibit A”) to on air operation before the one-year off air date (March 23, 2021) and respectfully requests an extension of the stations’ silent STAs and waiver of Section 312(g) of the Communications Act.

Section 312(g) of the Communications Act provides that “If a broadcasting station fails to transmit broadcast signals for any consecutive 12-month period, then the station license granted for the operation of that broadcast station expires at the end of that period, notwithstanding any provision, term, or condition of the license to the contrary, except that the Commission may extend or reinstate such station license if the holder of the station license prevails in an administrative or judicial appeal, the applicable law changes, or for any other reason to promote equity and fairness.” 47 U.S.C. § 312(g).

As justification for their request, SEI and WatchTV note that in the months that the stations have been off the air (and, indeed, well before that), WatchTV/SEI/Herman have (i) conducted many dialogs with and received initial quotations concerning the provision of transmission hardware for its CP’s from Anywave; (ii) received a number of transmitters, ATSC 3.0 Exciters, Encoders and Gap Fillers from Anywave, for evaluation; (iii) had discussions with Rhode & Schwarz to provide transmission hardware; and (iv) negotiated and reached preliminary agreement with American Tower for a master services agreement; (v) engaged in multiple dialogs with, and provided initial testing facilities for two different companies interested in working with the WatchTV/SEI/Herman to facilitate both connected car services (*see attached press releases*) and broadcast internet applications; and (vi) engaged in efforts to raise funds to create next generation business opportunities.

The FCC’s spectrum auction heavily restricted access to capital and constrained access to/availability of transmission equipment, engineering services, tower crews and construction services. All were compounded dramatically by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Commission is aware, there was not a great deal of equipment for ATSC 3.0 operation before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was severely

---

<sup>1</sup> Of the 7 WatchTV licensed LPTV stations which have also been silent since March 2020, resumption of operation notices have been filed this month for five stations.

<sup>2</sup> The Herman station, K28FP-D, Astoria, OR, resumed operations earlier this month.

<sup>3</sup> See attached letter of WatchTV/SEI/Herman’s strategic partner Converged Communications Corporation (“CCC Letter”).

exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in closed business, plants and storage facilities. The pandemic also hindered meetings and negotiations for equipment purchase, equipment testing and implementation planning.

With the unavailability of transmitters, ATSC3.0 Exciters, Encoders, Gap Fillers, and transmission hardware, WatchTV/SEI/Herman could not move forward to file applications to convert the stations that are currently authorized to operate in ATSC 1.0 to ATSC 3.0. Nonetheless with the one-year off air date rapidly approaching, WatchTV/SEI/Herman sought valiantly to return the stations to on-air operation and avoid the loss of licenses only to be thwarted by the inability to find engineers and crews willing to travel due to the sites of these stations due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and concern. While WatchTV/SEI/Herman's consulting engineer, Jess Ortega<sup>4</sup>, has made herculean efforts to get as many of the stations back on the air as possible, he was not able to get to many stations. To make matters worse, many of the transmitter sites are remote and inaccessible due to heavy winter snow.

If this waiver is granted, WatchTV/SEI could take immediate steps to put more of the licensed stations back on the air *prior* to conversion to ATSC 3.0 but it would be necessary to remove them from operation again to preserve resources for the conversion to ATSC 3.0 and it seems a poor usage of resources to expend time and scarce manpower to light them up in ATSC 1.0 just to have to go and retune them to ATSC 3.0 in (relatively) short order.

Step/Time Line for permanent resumption<sup>5</sup>:

- While a preliminary agreement for a Master Services Agreement with ATC has been reached as noted above, the final agreement must be completed. The parties are very motivated.

- Anywave – based on the refreshed quote from Anywave, they believe that they can deliver ALL of transmitters and related materials listed by July 30, 2021.

- Enensys – based on the refreshed quote from Enensys, they believe that they can deliver all of the exciters and software in 4-12 weeks.

- Telamon – based on the winning bid from Telamon for services in connection with the Planning, Site Development, Assembly and Integration, Construction, Installation and Maintenance of the proposed ATSC 3.0 IP Multicasting Network, they believe that the work can be completed in 5.5 months.

- File applications to convert the licenses to ATSC 3. WatchTV/SEI will start to file applications to convert to ATSC 3.0 if this waiver is granted and as stations are nearing coming online.

WatchTV/SEI/Herman believe that the stations can be returned to on air service in ATSC 3.0 by the end of September 2021 or as currently licensed by June 30, 2021 with a goal of converting all of the stations to 3.0 service by the end of the third quarter of 2021.

In light of the facts presented above, WatchTV and SEI respectfully aver that the inability to return these stations to on-air operation is the result of compelling reasons beyond the licensee's control and that equity and fairness dictate a license extension and a waiver of Section 312(g) are warranted. Spectrum Evolution, Inc. and WatchTV, Inc. are each dedicated to returning these stations to permanent on-air operation and to converting those station's with 1.0 operating authority to 3.0 authorized stations. To the extent necessary, WatchTV and SEI request a waiver of the filing deadline for this submission as they continued to try to return as many of their stations to on-air operation as possible before the one year off air deadline.

---

<sup>4</sup> The FCC is very familiar with Mr. Ortega having given him a commendation for his willingness and service in assistance to the FCC on station related matters during the pandemic.

<sup>5</sup> Copies of the quotes and proposals referenced in this exhibit have not been attached as they contain proprietary information but they will be made available to the FCC upon request.

## EXHIBIT A

### WatchTV Silent Licensed Stations:

K29MU-D, COOS BAY, OR (FAC ID 71077)  
K34QA-D, KLAMATH FALLS, OR (FAC ID 71076)

### Spectrum Evolution Silent License Stations:

K16IG-D, COTTAGE GROVE, OR (FAC ID 181996)  
K19MB-D, MOUNTAIN HOME, ID (FAC ID 182705)  
K21KD-D, WYOLA, MT (FAC ID 181982)  
K21NJ-D, THREE FORKS, MT (FAC ID 182448)  
K21NX-D, HERMISTON, WA (FAC ID 182504)  
K22JK-D, MOSES LAKE, WA (FAC ID 182536)  
K23NZ-D, THREE FORKS, MT (FAC ID 182453)  
K24IQ-D, BILLINGS, MT (FAC ID 181965)  
K24JI-D, HERMISTON, OR (FAC ID 182498)  
K24NN-D, TWIN FALLS, ID (FAC ID 182748)  
K28LC-D, REDDING, CA (FAC ID 182518)  
K29JB-D, MOSES LAKE, WA (FAC ID 182538)  
K29JD-D, REDDING, CA (FAC ID 182520)  
K29MM-D, BILLINGS, MT (FAC ID 182640)  
K30KN-D, WYOLA, MT (FAC ID 182461)  
K30KR-D, BOISE, ID (FAC ID 181930)  
K30QF-D, HERMISTON, WA (FAC ID 182506)  
K31KR-D, THREE FORKS, MT (FAC ID 181980)  
K32JE-D, QUINCY, WA (FAC ID 182530)  
K32JK-D, BOISE, ID (FAC ID 182688)  
K32JM-D, TWIN FALLS, ID (FAC ID 181933)  
K32NP-D, BILLINGS, MT (FAC ID 182638)  
K33PW-D, MOSES LAKE, WA (FAC ID 182541)  
K34KY-D, MOUNTAIN HOME, ID (FAC ID 182701)  
K34PO-D, BILLINGS, MT (FAC ID 182639)  
K35NI-D, THREE FORKS, MT (FAC ID 182450)



Converged  
Communications  
Corporation

To whom it may concern:

Converged Communications Corporation ("CCC") is the strategic partner of WatchTV, Inc. ("WatchTV") and Spectrum Evolution, Inc. ("SEI").

The companies are working in partnership to develop and deploy ATSC 3.0 television station infrastructure on LPTV licensed spectrum. This includes the conversion of as built existing ATSC 1.0 licensees and the buildout of pending Construction Permits into ATSC 3.0 stations to comply with the FCC's recent Broadcast Internet Report and Order.

CCC has coordinated with the supply chain vendors for transmission infrastructure including:

Anywave, Enensys and Kathrein for the supply of the needed infrastructure equipment to complete the buildout the licenses for which WatchTV and SEI are seeking an emergency extension for the completion of the rebuild of the existing stations that simply could not be completed as timely as needed to conform the FCC rules for "dark" stations. The Covid-19 impacts on the broadcasting industry, and the disruptions it has caused to the supply chain are both contributing factors the delays that face the licensees.

In addition to the equipment requirements CCC has contracted with Telemon to support the installation and project management of the current build and subsequent deployments that will be required to conform to the pending Construction Permit deadlines in addition to these as built station rebuilds. In the current environment they are confident they can complete the buildout with 5 1/2 months under current Covid-19 constraints.

Thank you for your consideration for the requested waiver of the pending deadlines, and we look forward to providing the FCC with a comprehensive briefing of our work with CCC and its financing partner Synthesis Cloud Inc. at your convenience.

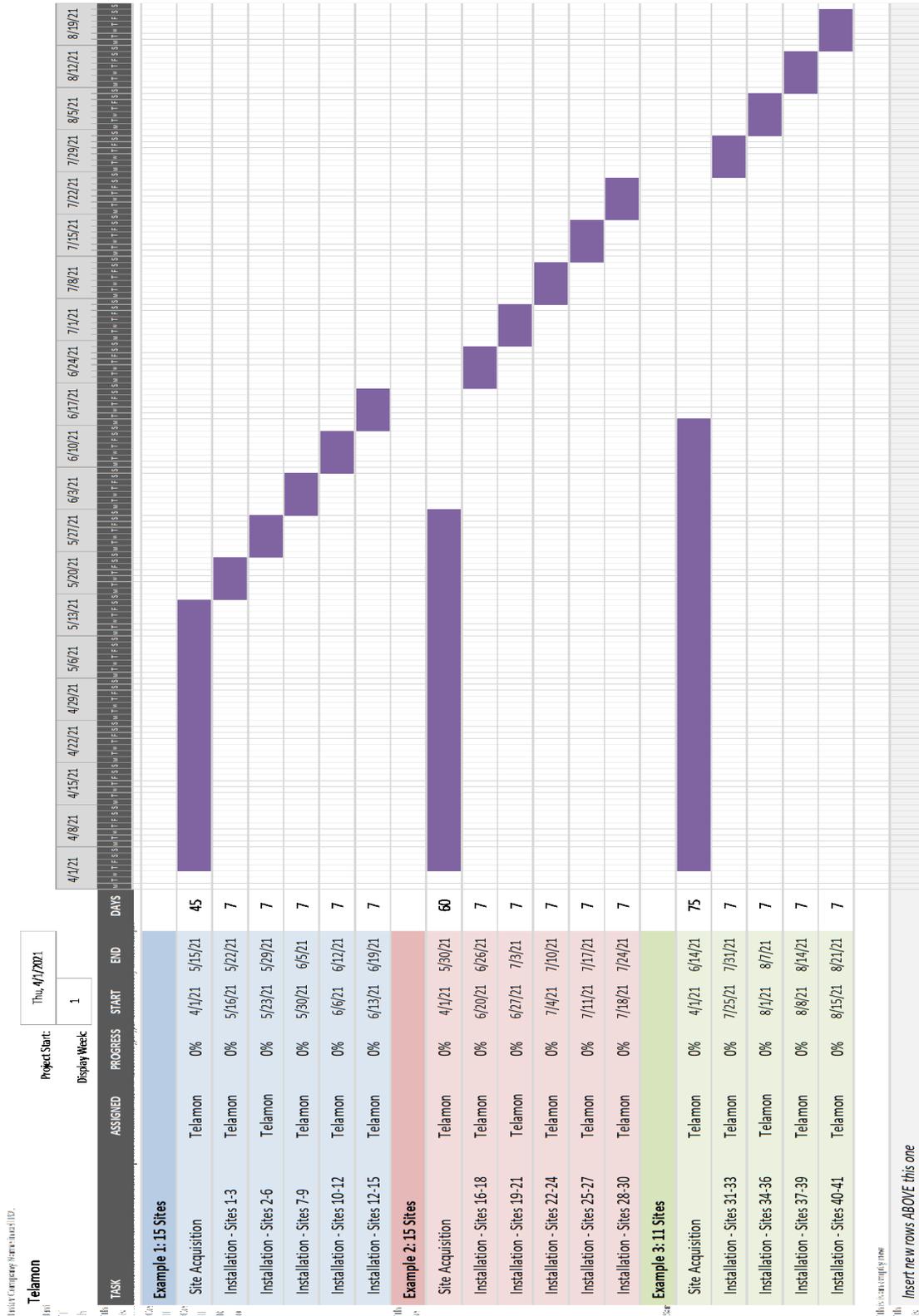
Best regards,

Vern Fotheringham  
Chairman  
Converged Communications Corp.  
Chairman and CEO  
Synthesis Cloud Inc.  
e: vf@synthesiscloud.com



Project Schedule Committed by Telemon

Converged Communications Corp.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Greg Herman, Spectrum Evolution  
**Phone:** (503) 819-0500  
**Email:** watchtvinc@me.com

## **Spectrum Evolution accelerating NextGenTV deployment through network function virtualization**

[PORTLAND, OR, **October 1, 2020**] For the past 60 days, Spectrum Evolution Inc. in collaboration with V-Satcast Inc. ("VSI") have been testing a significant leap forward in bringing NextGen TV to fruition. On July 29 a historic event in the broadcasting industry was quietly accomplished by this team. In concert with the ATSC 3.0 facilities of WatchTV in Portland, Oregon the first end-to-end Network Function Virtualization ("NFV") cloud-hosted implementation and "touchless deployment" of a Broadcast Internet service was initiated. This team is deploying the broadcast component of the 5G network evolution to deliver broadband content and data services to home, office and mobile end users on a "one to everyone" basis.

Massive concurrent demand for popular streaming video programming is creating bottlenecks across the Internet, as thousands of separate data files (each comprised of the same content) are individually transmitted to each viewer. The new hybrid broadcast-broadband network being pioneered by Spectrum Evolution and V-Satcast will preposition popular video content at the literal edge of the network – in consumer homes – in the process eliminating the congestion created by the increasing popularity of streaming video-on-demand content.

Greg Herman, President and CEO of WatchTV, Inc. and Spectrum Evolution, Inc. said, "We are exceptionally proud to have helped facilitate this exciting, first of its kind, software solution for ATSC 3.0 operations. "The ability to virtualize these essential components of the transmission chain, will provide substantial improvements to reduce both the cost and the construction time, for large-scale Broadcast Internet service deployments."

The ability to create this new service and NFV deployment model has been created in collaboration with Enensys and Broadpeak. "We are delighted to participate in this innovative experimentation as a technology partner and ATSC3.0 solution provider" said Richard Lhermitte, VP Solution & Market Development at ENENSYS Technologies. "We have put our experience at the service of VSI. The flexibility of our products — MediaCast and SmartGate, based on a purely software and virtualized architecture — have allowed us to adapt to the constraints and requirements of this project, offering the support of any type of NextGen TV services, from Linear Live TV, NRT, Push content to Broadcast internet."

"I am always amazed to witness customer break through innovations using Broadpeak's nanoCDN multicast ABR, edge CDN, edge caching and our cloud technologies to deliver video content people love to end users." said Jacques Le Mancq, President and CEO at Broadpeak. "The marriage of broadcast networks and broadband CDN solutions like Broadpeak's truly is a match made in heaven. We applaud Vsatcast's innovation. The combination of both our capabilities truly makes massive delivery at scale possible for big live events, at the lowest possible latency, all while reducing core network traffic through the use the ATSC 3.0 broadcast. Bravo."

In parallel, VSI is working with Alticast and BitRouter to develop prototypes of the next generation consumer media gateway required to deliver the service. "Alticast is excited to be part of this revolutionary effort with Spectrum Evolution and V-Satcast by facilitating the advanced benefits of ATSC 3.0 (a.k.a. NextGen TV) in consumer devices," said Jae Park, President and General Manager of Alticast Americas. "By leveraging our expertise in the

broadcast industry from the past two decades, Alticast is proud to offer a packaged software solution for in-home and mobile use to promote increased choice for content consumption and meet today's viewer expectations." Gopal Miglani, President and Founder of BitRouter said. "We are excited to integrate, ATSC3pak, our field proven ATSC 3.0 receiver software stack with the VSI and Spectrum Evolution ecosystem."

"We will be providing end users with a true "on demand" experience that is reliable and instantaneous, allowing them to enjoy uninterrupted content that streams with no ISP access network latency as fast as they can click." shared Gary Roshak, CEO of V-Satcast. "Spectrum Evolution and VSI are collaborating with other licensed TV broadcasters to launch commercial services in early 2021." This new consortium of broadcasters is planned to rapidly expand to national scale over the following two years.

Spectrum Evolution, Inc., is a leader in the promotion and deployment of efficient and effective uses for broadcast spectrum, and also has significant holdings in the space.

###



## Auton Achieves Field Trial Success of Its Connected Car Technology

*Trial demonstrated ATSC 3.0 mobile reception of streaming services in moving vehicles*

March 10, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Standard Time

SEATTLE--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Auton, Inc., the developer of a new mobile broadband solution for connected cars, and WatchTV, an owner and operator of broadcast internet facilities, today jointly announced the successful testing of Auton's connected car technology as part of its ongoing development efforts to deploy a new nationwide broadband mobile data network. The trial is significant as it demonstrates an effective, secure and more cost-effective solution for delivery of essential software updates and infotainment to the connected and autonomous vehicle market.

The trial was performed in downtown Portland, Ore. and surrounding areas, including Lake Oswego, Saint Helens, Ore. and Kalama, Wash., and confirmed Auton's ability to deliver mobile video streaming content and broadband data to moving vehicles in a wide range of environments.

This field testing of the new NextGenTV mobile network included monitoring the quality of internet hosted streaming video in high-speed highways, hills, valleys, forested areas, dense urban, suburban and rural environments. The test demonstrated the utility, efficiency, signal quality and the unique capabilities and advantages provided by the new FCC authorized broadcast internet services that will enhance the public's access to mobile broadband services.

"The growing demands for secure wireless broadband connectivity to the connected car and autonomous vehicle market is growing exponentially," said Robert Foster, Auton's president and CEO. "We're leveraging the massive efficiency of one-to-all broadcasting to deliver a significant cost advantage to our hybrid network that enhances all forms of mobile wireless connectivity solutions including cellular, WiFi and satellite communications."

**Cookies Settings**

**Accept All Cookies**

Auton is pioneering the use of NextGen TV (ATSC 3.0) technology to provide mobile broadcast internet services. Auton accomplished this with an IP multicast of the complete ATSC 3.0 protocol stack, originating in a Seattle data center and sent over the internet to the broadcast tower. The ATSC 3.0 multicast was received by Auton's telematics control unit ("TCU"), the in-vehicle appliance that includes the ATSC 3.0 receiver, LTE, WiFi, GPS, and the company's patented security overlay that uses the Iridium® satellite constellation.

Auton has partnered with the Iridium global satellite network to fully secure its heterogenous wireless network with a completely out-of-band cyber key exchange capability, ensuring military-grade security for all forms of wireless communications systems.

By clicking "Accept All Cookies", you agree to the storing of cookies on your device

to enhance site navigation, analyze site usage, and assist in our marketing efforts. (See our privacy policy for more information.)

**Cookie Policy** (<https://services.businesswire.com/cookie-policy>)

Greg Herman, WatchTV CEO commented, "As an early licensed ATSC 3.0 facility, we have strived to leverage this powerful one-to-many distribution asset to demonstrate and promote the new and enhanced capabilities of NextGen TV for delivery of mobile and fixed services with unprecedented efficiency and performance."

The testing was coordinated in cooperation with several broadcast internet vendor partners, including Iridium, Broadpeak, KenCast, Enensys, Triveni Digital, Dektec, Digital Fortress and Anywave. These partners supplied a range of systems and services to enhance the Auton ATSC 3.0 broadcast data solution that was provided by WatchTV.

### About Auton

Auton is an entirely new approach to mobile broadband services. High-definition entertainment is cached on a nearly unlimited basis or delivered live for a fraction of the cost of traditional LTE cellular, and with a viewing quality comparable to watching TV in the living room. The Auton service is ubiquitous, global and continuous – the very definition of “connected car.” In addition to its ultra-low cost, Auton's unique approach to data encryption provides auto manufacturers with military-grade security for delivery of critical vehicle software updates, saving car owners and manufacturers the expense of multiple trips to the dealership for software updates.

### About WatchTV

WatchTV is a pioneering ATSC 3.0 broadcaster with its primary operations in the state of Oregon. Prior to receiving its three permanent NextGen authorizations, WatchTV operated four experimental ATSC 3.0 equipped stations and also tested the performance enhancements provided by Distributed Transmission Systems (“DTS”) over its multichannel Portland facilities. These experimental activities were undertaken in 2017 and proved that ATSC 3.0 technology significantly enhances both a TV station's coverage and its mobile service capabilities. WatchTV continues to innovate with respect to the transformation of the LPTV industry with its active participation in the development of the new Broadcast Internet service as authorized by the FCC's Report and Order in December 2020.

## Contacts

Robert Foster, CEO

Auton, Inc.

[rf@auton.co](mailto:rf@auton.co)

425-442-0980

[Cookies Settings](#)

[Accept All Cookies](#)

By clicking “Accept All Cookies”, you agree to the storing of cookies on your device to enhance site navigation, analyze site usage, and assist in our marketing efforts.

[Cookie Policy \(https://services.businesswire.com/cookie-policy\)](https://services.businesswire.com/cookie-policy)