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Philadelphia Daily News

Verizon changed its FiOS buildout tune in April when it announced it would bring FiOS to Boston via a \$300 million, six-year investment plan. Now, the telco is indicating other cities could be in line for a similar build. For the Boston FiOS deployment, Verizon will create a single fiber-based network that will serve multiple purposes, including delivering FTTP services to consumers and businesses, smart city applications as well as serving as a backhaul mechanism for its upcoming 5G services.



CEO Lowell McAdam told investors during the telco's second quarter earnings call that the "one fiber" strategy in Boston could be replicated in other cities. "We will create a single fiber optic platform that is capable of supporting wireless and wireline technologies and multiple products," McAdam said. "In particular, we believe the fiber deployment will create economic growth for Boston and we are talking to other cities about similar partnerships."

However, McAdam added that when it talks to other communities about potential FiOS builds, the service provider would be looking at similar mixed use networks. "No longer are the discussions solely about local franchise rights, but how to make forward-looking cities more productive and effective," McAdam said. Complementing the Boston FiOS and other potential builds is its pending [acquisition of XO Communications'](#) fiber assets. Upon completing that purchase, Verizon will have an even deeper fiber footprint with an expanded network to increase its Ethernet penetration while

satisfying its small cell and wireless backhaul needs.

XO currently operates metro networks in 40 major U.S. markets with over 4,000 on-net buildings and 1.2 million fiber miles. The service provider's intercity network also spans 20,000 route miles connecting 85 cities. "Our announced agreement to XO will be a key part of this strategy, providing us with the deep fiber assets including 40 major fiber rings and millimeter wave spectrum that will give us a critical competitive edge," McAdam said.

While Verizon may be bullish about a multi-faceted FiOS strategy, the sale of more of its wireline assets to Frontier in April means that service provider's wireline footprint is now relegated to the East Coast corridor. However, McAdam said that there's nothing stopping the telco from conducting similar builds in other cities, including those outside of its wireline footprint. "On the cities, there's no boundary with our wireline footprint," McAdam said. "Obviously, we have a stronger position in the Washington to Boston corridor and move to market more quickly, but we don't view that as a barrier at all and we

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are talking to other cities." – *Fierce Cable*

21st Century Fox executive chairman and interim Fox News CEO Rupert Murdoch sent a memo to staff at the cable news channel Tuesday afternoon, congratulating them on a big ratings win last week during the Republican National Convention, and thanking them for their hard work, even as Fox News became one of the big news stories of the week.

"There's no doubt this has been a challenging time—amid the conventions and multitude of domestic and international breaking news stories, we had to face being the news last week as well," Murdoch wrote, according to a copy of the email, which was [shared on Twitter](#) by The New York Times' Emily Steel. "Despite the extraordinary circumstances, we never compromised our dedication to the viewers and everyone's professionalism was on display throughout."

Last week, Fox News CEO Roger Ailes resigned from the company following allegations of sexual harassment. Murdoch stepped in to replace him as interim CEO. Ailes' resignation happened in the midst of one of the biggest weeks of the year for Fox: the RNC, which reliably delivers a massive ratings boost. This year's RNC proved no exception. As Murdoch noted in the email, Fox News was the most-watched TV channel in primetime last week, and Fox Business topped CNBC in total day and primetime for the first time since it launched in 2007.

Murdoch also sought to reassure the troops during a time of tremendous uncertainty at the channel. Yesterday, Fox News executive VP Michael Clemente announced he would be leaving, and it is expected that others will follow, both from the executive and talent ranks. By taking over for Ailes himself, Murdoch is making it clear to Fox News staff that the channel's future is a top priority for 21st Century Fox, and he is likely to want to minimize any discord among staff there until permanent leadership is named. "The power of our brand has never been stronger, and I look forward to working with all of you to continue the momentum," he wrote in today's memo. – *Politico*

Comcast has a deal with the military's retail arm to stream the Rio Olympics "at no cost" to seven million active military personnel and retirees, the company says. The cable giant inked the deal with the Army & Air Force Exchange. Participating in the program is Comcast-owned NBCUniversal, which airs the Olympic games on its cable and TV stations, and other pay-TV operators.

Service members or retirees can access the NBC digital coverage by through [NBCOlympics.com](#) or the NBC Sports app and choosing the "Exchange" as the carrier. They also will need an active [shopmyexchange.com](#) account and authenticate with a password that they are eligible for the Olympics streaming. – *philly.com*



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