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**Congressman and Civil Rights Icon John Lewis Dies at 80**

— John Robert Lewis, civil rights icon and U.S. Representative for Georgia's 5th congressional district, dies at 80. He was the last remaining 1963 ‘March on Washington’ speaker and proudly served in Congress since 1987. (Photos: Office of Congressman John Lewis)

Charter Communications, Inc. will make Black News Channel available by early September 2020 to subscribers of Spectrum TV Silver and higher video tiers

STAMFORD, Conn. — Charter Communications, Inc. today announced it plans to significantly expand distribution of Black News Channel (BNC), the nation's only 24/7 African American-focused news network, by making the channel available to Spectrum TV subscribers throughout the company's 41-state footprint by early September 2020. Charter was one of the first pay TV providers to offer BNC in some of its biggest markets, including New York, Los Angeles and Dallas, upon the network’s launch in early 2020.

This week’s announcement expands that access to Spectrum TV customers located in all Charter markets, including Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Kansas City, Cincinnati and Columbia, providing Black News Channel even broader reach for its programming. BNC launched February 10 as the nation’s only provider of 24-hour cable news programming dedicated to covering the diverse perspective of African American communities. As an innovative and life-changing network, BNC’s mission is to provide intelligent programming that is informative, educational, inspiring and empowering to its African American audience. Discover more at bdpatoday.com.

— Source and photo: Charter Communications and Devlin Design Group
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For 40 years, BDPA has enabled the upward mobility of African Americans and other minorities in the Information Technology (IT) and STEM fields. Through its 40+ local community chapters in major cities across the United States, BDPA has been at the forefront of promoting the minority agenda within the IT profession since 1975. BDPA has been a leader and pioneer in technology and STEM training for IT professionals and High School students since 1986.

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

• Connect to a network of IT professionals
• Enhance and develop additional technical skill sets
• Acquire professional and leadership skills
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• Discount rates to the Annual Technology Conference and Career Fair
• Obtain exposure to technical and professional topics through program meetings, seminars and workshops
• Participate in certification support groups
• Discounts on IT certifications and training courses
BDPA, formerly known as Black Data Processing Associates, was established in 1975 and founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to promote professional growth and technical development to those in or entering information and communications technology (ICT) career fields and related industries.

Now in its 45th year (Volume XLV) National BDPA (NBDPA) and participating local BDPA Chapters publish daily and weekly blogs with quarterly or monthly newsletters.

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For bdpatoday or web banner advertising rates, publication schedules, and online calendars with Industry events, contact regional offices or local BDPA Chapters by visiting bdpa.org or bdpatoday.com.
AFRL: Small Business Technology Transfer

DAYTON, OH — The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program was established by Congress in 1982 to fund research and development (R&D) by small businesses of 500 or fewer employees. Eleven federal agencies participate in this program, including the Department of Defense (DoD).

The Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program was established in 1992 to fund cooperative R&D projects with small businesses and non-profit U.S. research institutions, such as colleges or universities. Five federal agencies participate, including DoD. Both programs focus on projects and services with the potential to develop into products, solutions, or services for both military and commercial sectors.

Small businesses and new startups can respond to Air Force Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs), three times a year. These topics address critical needs identified by U.S. warfighters. Small business proposals are reviewed and awarded SBIR/STTR contracts based on their likelihood to fulfill the identified need.

With the initiation of open innovation topics, through work with AFWERX, Air Force SBIR contracts are being issued with unprecedented expediency. Small businesses that have been awarded a Phase I open innovation topic contract also are being invited to present their solutions for a Phase II contract at Air Force Pitch Day events, where contracts are awarded on the spot. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are highly encouraged to partner with start-ups and small businesses when pivoting from “Grants-To-Contracts.” Learn and earn more by visiting: https://www.afsbirsttr.af.mil/.

National BDPA is co-hosting an Air Force STTR HBCU Collider with Small Businesses, Start-Ups, and HBCUs during this year’s annual technology conference, BDPA2020.com.  

– Source and photo: U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL)
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