

I manage three radio stations in California. I'm also a Sirius Satellite Radio subscriber. The merger of the two satellite companies is a terrible proposition. Both XM and Sirius miscalculated satellite radio's potential and overspent on programming costing them millions as they competed against each other in a talent buying frenzy. The fact that that buying frenzy left them in a financial hole should not be the consumers' problem.

The business model of charging for commercial free music, news, sports etc. is sound. Paying talent millions in cash and stock is a recipe for disaster. If the operators of these services can't create a viable service under the current rules, their shareholders should demand replacements.

The satellite radio services were approved as two distinct national services for a reason. The monopoly implications of a merger are huge and well documented.

Bottom line, don't allow the merger. Let XM and Sirius modify their management, which they will without a merger, so they can start to work successfully within the parameters they promised to work within.