DISH Launches Legal Action Against Two IPTV Services for Streaming DISH-Exclusive Content without Authorization

Spider-TV and Tiger Star sell IPTV boxes and streaming services that distribute numerous Arabic channels and TV programs without authorization
DISH files suit after making numerous requests to Spider-TV and Tiger Star to remove exclusive content and cease copyright infringement

ENGLEWOOD, Colo., Jan 18, 2018 – DISH today announced that it has filed two lawsuits to end unauthorized distribution of Arabic channels and content for which it has the exclusive licenses. The complaints against Spider-TV and Tiger Star are similar, alleging that the entities are capturing broadcasts of certain TV channels licensed exclusively to DISH, including MBC and Al Jazeera Arabic News, and unlawfully retransmitting them over the Internet to their respective customers throughout the U.S.

"We feel it is our responsibility to ensure the channels and shows we pay to carry exclusively are not pirated and sold illegally," said Timothy Messner, executive vice president and general counsel at DISH. "Despite our best efforts to ask both Spider-TV and Tiger Star voluntarily to cease transmitting the channels without authorization, they have continued to distribute the content, leaving us no course but legal action."

Beginning in 2017, DISH sent over 100 notices to Spider-TV, Tiger Star, and their respective Internet service providers demanding that they cease transmitting television content in violation of DISH's exclusive rights. Spider-TV and Tiger Star ignored those demands.

The Protected Channels that DISH has the exclusive rights to carry, and that Spider-TV and Tiger Star distributed, include Al Arabiya, Al Hayah 1, Al Jazeera Arabic News, Al Nahar, ART Cinema, Dream 2, Future TV, Iqraa, LDC, MBC1, Murr TV (aka MTV Lebanon), NBN, New TV (aka Al Jadeed), Noursat and ONTV, among others.

Both Spider-TV and Tiger Star employ similar means to deliver the pirated content to their users. As outlined in each complaint, "Defendants capture live broadcast signals of the Protected Channels, transcode these signals into a format useful for streaming over the Internet, transfer the transcoded content to one or more servers provided, controlled, and maintained by Defendants, and then transmit the Protected channels to users of the Service through OTT delivery, including users in the United States."

A copy of the complaint filed against defendants affiliated with Spider-TV can be foundhere, and a copy of the complaint filed against defendants affiliated with Tiger Star can be found here.

DISH Network Corporation is a connectivity company. Since 1980, DISH has served as the disruptive force in the pay-TV industry, driving innovation and value on behalf of consumers. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides television entertainment and award-winning technology to millions of customers with its satellite DISH TV and streaming Sling TV services. DISH operates a national in-home installation workforce, as well as an advertising sales group delivering targeted advertising solutions on DISH TV and Sling TV. In addition to its TV services, DISH has commenced buildout of a nationwide narrowband "Internet of Things" network that will apply capacity from its strategic spectrum portfolio. DISH Network Corporation (NASDAQ: DISH) is a Fortune 200 company.

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