

X logical buyer in Springfield, MO: Citadel probably doesn't want to stay in market #144 with just a pair of FMs. While Journal's already got three stations: country KTTS, rhythmic CHR "Power 96.5 Jams" KSPW and "News/talk 1260" KSGF. Mike Bergner brokered Citadel's \$133 million purchase of the Wilks stations in New Orleans (KMEZ, KKND, WPRF and WOPR), Des Moines (KGGO, KJJY, KHKI, and KRKQ) and Springfield (KHTO and KZRQ). Bergner also handled the subsequent \$5 million spin of Springfield to Journal.

Knoxville may be the scene of the only adult alternative format war in the U.S. There are literally only about 100 commercial AAA stations in the entire U.S. But two of them now reside in Knoxville, Arbitron market #72. The showdown was set up when Citadel took over operation of "River" WOKI, planned to take it AC, changed its mind after another station got there first and more than 10,000 listeners protested — and then kept a modified version of "The River." Over at Horne Radio's WKVL-FM, PD Brian Tatum tells FMQB Citadel is "just not doing the Triple A format like The River used to." Horne steps into the breach and drops the 80s-based format on WKVL-FM to unfurl its new banner as... "West 105.3." Horne is also attacking Citadel's corporate ownership by advertising WKVL as "locally owned, no big corporations."

Shane Fox's Munbilla Broadcasting buys a combo in the Texas Hill Country. Munbilla already owns "K-Bay" traditional country KBEY-FM, Burnet, TX — and its \$1 million all-cash deal with Randall Hale's Equicom will add country competitor KHLB-FM (106.9) and adult standards KHLB (1340). Both are licensed to Burnet, about 55 miles northwest of Austin. "Texas 106" KHLB-FM is a Class A. "Timeless Classics 1340" KHLB clears Westwood's standards format and has 1,000 watts day and night. The two companies fortunately got their app into the FCC before the freeze of new filings hit again last Friday. They did so with just a letter of intent, promising to file the formal contract once it's completed.

XM Radio gets \$150M from investors to help pay for its replacement satellites. As *Inside Radio* reported August 8, the solar panels that help power XM-1 and XM-2 high above the Earth are degrading at a faster pace than planned. So XM is accelerating plans to launch a third satellite and build another spare — just in case. Although XM hopes a \$400 million insurance policy will help recoup the costs, so far the insurers have balked on replacing satellites that are still working. XM is still in negotiations with them — but in the meantime it sells more than 11.3 million shares of XM stock to help cover the huge cost of building XM-4, the new ground spare satellite. If the insurance company comes through, XM will use the dough to pay off some of its higher-interest debt. The 11,320,755 shares of common stock were sold to three large institutional investors, yielding XM about \$150M. All of this wasn't enough to worry Wall Street: XM's stock price rose 8% as it trades near its one year high.

The University of Southern California squares off with a religious operator to expand into San Diego. KUSC, Los Angeles (91.5) can already be heard from Santa Barbara down to the Mexican border on five stations — including one across the border. That's XHLNC, Tijuana (90.7). Now KUSC is asking the FCC to allow it to add a translator at 104.9 in San Diego, to fill in parts of the metro XHLNC doesn't cover. The trouble is, religious operator Educational Media Foundation has also applied for a translator at 104.9. KUSC hopes a public relations blitz will tilt the scale in their favor. They're asking San Diego classical music fans to

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