The Communications Sector is an integral component of the U.S. economy, underlying the operations of all businesses, public safety organizations, and government. Presidential Policy Directive 21 identifies the Communications Sector as critical because it provides an “enabling function” across all critical infrastructure sectors. Over the last 25 years, the Sector has evolved from being predominantly a provider of voice services into a diverse, competitive, and interconnected industry using terrestrial, satellite, and wireless transmission systems. The transmission of these services has become interconnected; satellite, wireless, and wireline providers depend on each other to carry and terminate their traffic, and companies routinely share facilities and technology to ensure interoperability.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR COLLABORATION, RESOURCES, AND TRAINING
The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) offers many resources to help owners and operators manage risks, improve security, and aid the implementation and execution of protective and response measures across the Communications Sector. This fact sheet lists a sampling of sector collaboration mechanisms, resources, and training materials. Unless otherwise noted, additional information can be found on the CISA website at cisa.gov/communications-sector.
SECTOR PROFILE
The Communications Sector is both diverse and resilient with a strong, well-refined focus on risk management, long-established processes and procedures for network security, and rapid response and recovery under all hazards to assure the continued operation of vital communications. The infrastructure includes broadcasting, cable, satellite, wireless, and wireline capabilities, as well as the transport networks that support the Internet and other key information systems.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS
As more devices connect to public communication networks, service firms can provide more types of device-specific services over those networks. The Communications Sector architecture model in the figure below serves as a representation of the collective infrastructure, which illustrates at least five major ways to access the numerous voice, video, and data services on the core network: broadcasting, cable, satellite, wireless, and wireline networks.

While the Communications Sector has few significant dependencies, other critical infrastructure sectors are dependent on the Communications Sector. As such, the Communications Sector is one of the few sectors that can affect all other sectors. At a minimum, each sector depends on services from the Communications Sector to support its operations and associated day-to-day communication needs for corporate and organizational networks and services (e.g., internet connectivity, voice services, and video teleconferencing capabilities). Some sectors have even more significant dependencies on the Communications Sector beyond these routine operations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR
Contact the Communications Sector Management Team at CommunicationsSector@cisa.dhs.gov or learn more at cisa.gov/sector-specific-agencies. For additional information about the Communications Sector, view the Communications Sector-Specific Plan at cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/nipp-ssp-communications-2015-508.pdf.