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Altice USA Signs on as Captain of Innovation-Level Sponsor for the 2017 SBPLI Long Island Regional *FIRST*® Robotics Competition

Event Presented by School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc. at Hofstra University's David S. Mack Sports and Exhibition Complex March 31 and April 1

[School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc. \(SBPLI\)](#) is pleased to announce that Altice USA has signed on as a Captain of Innovation-level sponsor for the organization's forthcoming Long Island Regional *FIRST*® Robotics Competition. The event, which this year takes place March 31 and April 1 at Hofstra University's Dave S. Mack Sports and Exhibition Complex, is run entirely through the funding and support from valuable donors, such as Altice USA. This year for the first time, Altice USA which operates the Optimum cable TV, internet and voice services, is a leading sponsor of SBPLI's Long Island Regional *FIRST*® Robotics Competition. In addition to its leading sponsor role, Altice USA employees will also be volunteering at the competition.

"At Altice USA we are committed to investing in and supporting the growth of our next generation of STEM leaders," said Lee Schroeder, senior vice president, government and community affairs, Altice USA. "As a technology-focused company, we fully recognize how important it is to inspire children to join STEM fields, and promote the development of future innovators in our exciting and ever-evolving industry."

Now in its 18th season, the SBPLI Long Island Regional features teams of high school-aged students from across Long Island, the New York metropolitan area and even around the world competing in a cooperative tournament-style robotics competition. This year, 55 teams of students, including one from Brazil, will demonstrate their skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to compete for honors and recognition that reward design excellence, competitive play and sportsmanship. This high energy event further emphasizes the importance of high-impact partnerships between students, universities, businesses and communities.

"We are thrilled to have Altice USA join SBPLI's efforts in increasing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) awareness to families, schools and businesses across the region," says Dr. Yacov Shamash, Chairman, SBPLI Board of Directors, and Vice President for Economic Development at Stony Brook University. "This event provides an opportunity for all *FIRST* robotics students to turn a vision into a reality. It also opens the door to possibilities that are few and far between these days, like scholarships or job opportunities, and

helps them develop skills that are necessary to enrich their professional lives, such as maturity, teamwork, problem solving and healthy competition.”

Support for the SBPLI Long Island Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competition also provides sponsors with access to a qualified, skilled and well-educated workforce that can bring them into the future. It also affords local businesses the opportunity to help mold the future of STEM education and programming, through invitations to join the fully volunteer-run organization that organizes the event.

Sponsors are also invited to support or participate at SBPLI’s other important *FIRST* programs, which include *FIRST* LEGO® League Jr., *FIRST* LEGO League and *FIRST* Tech Challenge. For more information on SBPLI or the *FIRST* Long Island programs, please visit www.sbpli-lifirst.org.

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About School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc.

[School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc.](http://www.sbpli-lifirst.org) (SBPLI) is a fully volunteer-run 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1984 by Fred Breithut with the goal of developing partnerships between local high schools and businesses. His goal was to provide students with practical experience and curriculum development, while helping the business community develop its future workforce, which resulted in the formation of over 100 partnerships. In 1999, SBPLI brought the *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) to Long Island, which featured just eight *FIRST* Robotics Competition high school teams. Since then, the Long Island Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competition has grown to over 50 teams competing each year. SBPLI also hosts Long Island’s annual *FIRST* LEGO League Qualifying and Championship Tournaments and the *FIRST* LEGO League Junior Expos, in which over 2,000 elementary and middle school students from Nassau and Suffolk Counties take part each year. In 2016, SBPLI added the *FIRST* Tech Challenge to its roster of programs. For more information about the programs, or to learn how to become a sponsor, visit www.sbpli-lifirst.org.

ABOUT ALTICE USA

Altice USA, a subsidiary of Altice Group (Euronext: ATC, ATCB), is the fourth largest cable operator in the United States, delivering residential and business services to 4.6 million customers across 20 states. Providing high-quality products that keep customers connected, Altice USA (through its Optimum, Lightpath and Suddenlink brands) offers digital cable television, high-speed Internet, voice, WiFi and advertising services. To meet our customers’ content and information needs, the company through News 12 also offers hyper-local news and programming created specifically for the communities we serve. www.alticeusa.com