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Bakersfield CA.

# Univision, Hispanic merger scrutinized

Bloomberg News

LOS ANGELES — Univision Communications Inc. and Hispanic Broadcasting Corp. said the U.S. Justice Department has made a second request for information on the two Spanish-language broadcasters' plan to combine.

Univision, the biggest U.S. Spanish-language television network, agreed in June to buy radio broadcaster Hispanic for \$2.09 billion in stock. The purchase requires Justice Department approval under U.S. antitrust laws. The companies plan to work with regulators and expect to complete the pur-

chase by year-end, according to a statement distributed by Business Wire.

Spanish Broadcasting System Inc. in June sued rivals Hispanic and Clear Channel Communications Inc., which owns a 26 percent stake in Hispanic, alleging antitrust violations. Spanish accused Clear Channel of requiring Hispanic to sell to Univision to thwart a merger between Hispanic and Spanish Broadcasting.

Univision, Hispanic Broadcasting and Clear Channel representatives didn't return phone calls seeking comment. Clear Channel has previously

said it expects to win dismissal of Spanish Broadcasting's suit.

Los Angeles-based Univision owns 22 TV stations, the Univision and TeleFutura broadcast networks and the Galavision Spanish-language cable network. Dallas-based Hispanic Broadcasting owns 55 radio stations and San Antonio-based Clear Channel is the biggest U.S. radio company with more than 1,200 stations.

Univision shares Thursday fell \$1.61 to \$22.40 in New York Stock Exchange composite trading. The stock has fallen 45 percent this year. Hispanic Broadcasting Thursday fell \$1.37 to \$18.53.