Inside Towers

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Network Expansion Will Increase Tower Crew Demand

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported at the end of last year that the expansion of broadband networks will create jobs, economic growth, and global competitiveness. “Thus, the new BLS projections indicate the telecom industry has streamlined itself in response to the competitive environment ushered in by new technological developments and pro-competitive government policies, and it will remain a significant economic force in the U.S. long into the future,” US Telecom: The Broadband Association explains. With carriers continuing to expand their networks more towers will need to be constructed, which will drive the demand for trained tower crews to get the job done. With the increase in technology, tower crews will be expected to know even more about the technology that they are installing on towers.

State Fire Commission Investigates Following Cell Tower Collapse

In Clarksburg, West Virginia the state Fire Commission is investigating the Harrison County volunteer fire department after the death of a member of another department during the response to a cell tower collapse. "Anytime there's a complaint — a legitimate complaint — against a fire department, it is investigated," Clarksburg Fire Chief Rick Scott, who serves on the fire commission, told the Daily Journal. Garrett's relatives and other Nutter Fort firefighters have questioned whether Summit Park had an adequate number of firefighters and equipment. They also have questioned whether the department is properly registered with the state. They raised these concerns Thursday during a Harrison County Commission meeting and Friday during a meeting with the fire commission in Charleston, according to the Daily Journal. County Commissioner Ron Watson said Summit Park plans to remove itself from service while the investigation is conducted.

Copper Theft from Towers is Becoming a Big Problem

Copper has been stolen from many cell sites across the country and a recent report from the Des Plaines, Illinois based National Insurance Crime Bureau showed thieves are targeting abandoned properties, street lighting and critical infrastructure. The report reviews metal theft claims from Jan. 1, 2010, through Dec. 31, 2012. (Source: American City & County) In a press release on the report, the NICB states: “When the number of metal theft claims per month and monthly average copper prices are compared, the number of

claims filed is found to have a statistically significant correlation with the price of copper." The NICB says that in 2013, "There have been reports of copper thefts at numerous locations coast to coast." Keeping your cell sites well lit, locked, and equipped with surveillance cameras may deter criminals from stealing copper and damaging your tower.

The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Develops "AM Tower Tool"

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Media Bureau have developed a tool that will help companies who are looking to build or modify a tower to see if nearby AM towers are affected. The FCC has developed an easy to use website where you enter the latitude and longitude, in decimal degrees, and height, in meters, of your tower to determine if you need to notify any AM Stations prior to building. The tool has been developed as the commission updates its rules to better protect AM towers from the impact of nearby construction.

Tower Ticker

Symbol	Last Sale	Change		% Change	Share Volume	Market
AMT	$80.16	2.82	▼	3.40%	5,612,259	NYSE
CCI	$74.26	0.46	▼	0.62%	1,968,222	NYSE
SBAC	$95.34	0.56	▼	0.58%	1,818,948	NASDAQ
TMUS	$30.47	1.84	▼	5.69%	9,851,940	NYSE
VZ	$46.29	0.06	▲	0.13%	146,504,915	DualListed
S	$8.27	0.13	▼	1.55%	13,310,809	NYSE
T	$32.17	0.30	▼	0.92%	41,064,348	NYSE
Information as of 4:00pm EST 02/25/2014						

Tower International Upgraded by McLean Capital Management to "Buy"

Tower International was upgraded by analysts at McLean Capital Management from a "neutral" rating to a "buy" rating in a research report issued to clients and investors on Friday, American Banking News reports. According to WKBR, "Tower International traded up 0.73% during mid-day trading on Friday, hitting $26.32. 106,591 shares of the company's stock traded hands. Tower International has a 1-year low of $11.10 and a 1-year high of $26.17. The stock's 50-day moving average is $23.14 and its 200-day moving average is $21.50. The company's market cap is $538.8 million. Tower International last posted its quarterly earnings results on Thursday, February 13th. The company reported $0.45 earnings per share (EPS) for the quarter, beating the consensus estimate of $0.44 by $0.01. The company had revenue of $517.00 million for the quarter, compared to the consensus es-

timate of $516.67 million. During the same quarter in the previous year, the company posted $0.05 earnings per share. The company's revenue for the quarter was up 1.7% on a year-over-year basis. On average, analysts predict that Tower International will post $2.87 earnings per share for the current fiscal year." In other Tower International news, SVP Jeffrey Kersten unloaded 10,000 shares of the company's stock on the open market in a transaction that occurred on Tuesday, February 18th. The stock was sold at an average price of $25.00, for a total transaction of $250,000.00. Following the transaction, the senior vice president now directly owns 20,438 shares of the company's stock, valued at approximately $510,950.

Zoning and Moaning

Florida Judge Says City Violated Federal Law in Rejecting Cell Tower

A Panama City Judge said that the city commissioners violated federal law last year when they rejected a proposal to build a 150-foot cell tower. The commissioners unanimously rejected Vertical Assets' plan for the tower last September citing reasons of incompatibility. According to the News Herald, "Judge Richard Smoak ruled in the court case filed by Vertical Assets that commissioners were in violation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (TCA). Because Panama City 'has violated the TCA and did not include the reasons for its denial in a written record, (Vertical Assets) is entitled to … the requested permit,' Smoak wrote in his conclusion. Panama City 'shall immediately approve (Vertical Assets') application and issue any and all approvals necessary … to construct and operate the proposed tower.' The TCA requires local governments that deny cell tower applications put in writing both their reasons — and substantial evidence supporting those reasons." Vertical Assets originally filed two complaints against the city; however, in exchange for approval to build the tower, they dropped the second complaint.

Missouri City Passes Two Pieces that Opposes State Legislation

The Rolla City Council passed a resolution opposing two pieces of state legislation that would limit cities' rights to use zoning laws to determine where wireless antennas should be placed. "This is an extremely complicated issue," Rolla Municipal Utilities General Manager Rodney Bourne told the council in his presentation on two bills brought up this legislative session to replace two bills passed last year that were found unconstitutional in October. Bourne said last year's legislation would have made telecommunications companies exempt from any municipal planning and zoning regulation regarding wireless structures. Telecommunications companies were also given the right to attach wireless antennas to municipal poles with no prior contract, according to the Rolla Daily News. However, both the House and Senate have versions of these bills again this year.

Tower Safety

A Safer Workplace Helps Maintain Financial Health of a Company

Investing in training courses and proper equipment for your team is important for a few reasons. You want to keep your employees safe so they make it home each evening. You want to maintain a level of credibility with your clients and potential employees. You want to get the job done effectively. The Occupational Health & Safety Blog explains, "Developing a comprehensive fall protection and training plan is the right decision for the safety of employees, the financial health of the company, and the integrity of the product." When you're crunching the numbers and wondering which safety equip-

ment you should buy, go with the best. Safety is a long-term investment but it's worth it when all your employees come home safely and the job is done properly.

Tower Calendar

American Tower to Participate at the Morgan Stanley Technology, Media & Telecom Conference

American Tower Corporation announced that the company's Chief Financial Officer, Tom Bartlett, is scheduled to present at the Morgan Stanley Technology, Media & Telecom Conference in San Francisco, California on Monday, March 3, 2014 at 1:20 p.m. PT (4:20 p.m. ET). The live audio webcast link will be available on the Company's website, www.americantower.com.

Company Profile

Cell At Auction

Started in 2013, Cell At Auction is the preeminent resource for owners of telecommunication towers and leases. Cell At Auction was created to provide property owners with a creative approach to target untapped capital resources. Cell At Auction represents the seller and with their expertise, along with the power of auction, ensures that the sellers are receiving the maximum lump sum payout on the sale of their lease. With the universal acceptance of live and Webcast auctions, they have generated a platform that allows sellers and buyers to accelerate the transaction in this growing industry. Owners and lessors of telecommunication towers can now be assured they receive fair market value for these assets while buyers can obtain assets backed by highly rated companies that generate a good return on their investment. Continue reading here.