**Investors Want to Know Sprint’s Network Plans**

There was a lot of talk about Sprint’s newest “All-In” promotion. It’s the one with David Beckham in the commercial in case you missed it. But it seems investors just want to know what exactly the carrier’s network build plans are. Because no matter how good the promotion is, if the network isn’t up to par, nothing will last. Amir Rozwadowski of Barclays speculated, “We would expect a combination of macro and micro site investment as a component of Sprint’s network densification initiatives. Based on our checks, the carrier still has work to do with lighting up 2.5GHz on its macro network (which would be the most efficient means by which to execute its build plans). We also believe the carrier is simultaneously focused on its own small cell initiatives in key urban arenas.” Investors want to know the method and manner Sprint will execute their network buildout given the need to maneuver its financing resources. The analysts at Barclays expect SoftBank to continue to support the company’s network strategy. “We believe that SoftBank has been intimately involved with crafting Sprint's network strategy leveraging its own expertise from similar high band, small cell focused builds in Japan. We would expect support to continue - particularly as the broadcast spectrum auction seems to be gaining momentum for an early 2016 start as Sprint would likely look to strategically improve its low band holdings,” Rozwadowski wrote.

**Tower Company Sued by Subcontractor**

Phoenix Telecom Incorporated filed a lawsuit against Trusty Construction in the 19th Judicial District Court back in April for alleged breach of contract, the Louisiana Record reported. The case is finally moving forward, and has been assigned to Division I Judge R. Michael Caldwell. The Louisiana Record reported, “According to court records, Trusty, a general contractor, hired Phoenix Telecom to help install and maintain cell phone towers in Louisiana. Initially, the plaintiff performed the work requested by the purchase orders and was paid for eight separate projects in Louisiana. Over the course of three months, the defendant allegedly sent numerous work orders to the plaintiff. The plaintiff states that it in fact completed the work that Trusty LLC asked and in return sent invoices to the defendant.” In September 2014, Phoenix Telecom claims it sent numerous invoices to the defendant for the completion of work in four parishes for a total of $19,330. A month later, the company sent additional invoices totaling $26,400, and claims that Trusty Construction owes them $46,330. “On February 18, the plaintiff counsel claims to have sent a demand letter to Trusty's owner, Mark Bruington, requesting full payment in 30 days, but Bruington received the letter and still refused to pay the $46,330.00 owed the plaintiff,” the Louisiana Record explained.
Lightning Strikes Affect Tower

First responders in Leesburg, Georgia, had to work around communication issues after the county’s radio tower was struck by lightning. On July 3, the 400-foot tower was struck by lightning, and while it didn't take out the entire tower, it affected Lee County’s digital 800 MHz frequency. "It did not knock it out completely, but it does affect the range at times," said Lee County 911 Coordinator Larry Hill. (WALB-TV) The county's old VHF radio system will be used as a backup when needed, and a new part has been ordered to repair the tower. "It's been business as usual, said Hill. "We've just had to have our deputies and officers cognizant of the fact. Just be aware that you aren't always able to talk as far as you can hear." (WALB-TV)

Cell Tower to Help 911 Services

A cell tower will be installed in the eastern part of the Alamosa County, Colorado, to improve emergency service coverage. The Alamosa County Commissioners voted to approve Verizon's request last Wednesday after a public hearing. The carrier needed to secure a special use permit to construct a 30-foot monopole on privately owned property. In addition to improving E-911 services, the tower will improve capacity and coverage for Verizon customers in the county.

Alaska Town to See (or not) First Camouflaged Tower

Verizon Wireless has submitted an application to construct a cell tower disguised as a spruce tree at a ski lift near Alyeska Resort in Girdwood, Alaska. This tower would be the first concealed tower in the region. The resort owners are eager to let Verizon replace the existing wooden cell tower with a steel structure that would have fiberglass branches and faux bark to match the surrounding foliage. According to the Alaska Dispatch News, “Anchorage city planners are researching ways to rewrite the city’s tower regulations and requirements. No camouflaged towers exist in Anchorage now, but last week, the city’s planning commission directed General Communications Inc. to disguise a planned pole like a tree in response to community concerns.” Concealed towers haven’t been as popular throughout Alaska as they have been in other cities due to snow load and ice concerns. “The issue isn’t just of camouflage, it’s also an issue of serviceability and reliability,” said David Morris, a spokesman for GCI, a company who provides residential and business telecommunications services. “If it can’t maintain a snow load or an ice load … it’s extremely challenging to service the thing when there is an issue.” (Alaska Dispatch News) Verizon expects to complete the project, along with three others in Girdwood, in the next few months. But the Planning and Zoning Commission will review this particular proposal at their July 20 meeting.

NWSA Partners with NCCCO

The National Wireless Safety Alliance (NWSA) and the National Commission for the Certification of Inside Towers

NWEA Partners with NCCCO

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Crane Operators (NCCCO) announced that they have entered into a professional partnership for the development and administration of nationally accredited certification programs. The mission of NCCCO is to develop effective performance standards for those who work in and around cranes; provide fair, valid and reliable assessments of their knowledge and skill; and act as an authoritative industry resource of related information. The mission of the NWSA is to provide thorough, independent assessments of knowledge and skills and provide verifiable worker certification in order to enhance safety, reduce workplace risk, improve quality, encourage training, and recognize the skilled professionals who work on towers and other non-standard structures. “The NWSA is excited to partner with NCCCO in order to ensure that our various worker certification program offerings achieve official ANSI 17024 accreditation status,” said NWSA consultant Chuck Slagle, a former Sprint Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Executive. “It is very evident that NWSA’s mission is aligned with NCCCO’s mission from a safety and quality perspective and this working relationship is going to help expedite the process of getting NWSA’s certification programs to the marketplace,” added Slagle.

**Carrier Coverage**

**Verizon Expands in Muncie**

Verizon is looking to move a cell tower near Central High School in Muncie, Indiana, to expand its network coverage. Currently, the school district owns a tower adjacent to the Muncie Fieldhouse building, and it also serves as one of the light poles for the football stadium. “This tower is in a prime location for downtown coverage,” said Mark Burkhart, former MCS chief financial officer. (The Star Press) MCS will receive a $10,000 signing fee and $500 per month from Verizon. The school is already getting $992 per month from AT&T and $400 per month from Cellular One, according to The Star Press. The extra money will be put into the general fund, which is used to pay student programs, teacher’s salaries and employee benefits.

**Tower Ticker**

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Inside Towers
Tower Opponents Wants to See Contract

Members of a grassroots organization that is opposing a tower being built in Calais, Vermont, want to see the contract between VTel Wireless and resident Steve Perkins. VTel angered some residents when they announced their plans to construct a 140-foot monopole on Perkins’ property. This tower is part of a federally funded initiative to bring high-speed broadband, but the North Calais Neighborhood Coalition wants to review the contract before the tower is installed. Matt Lutz, president of the Coalition believes, “that legal technicality shouldn’t trump his group’s ability to learn as much as it possibly can about the project while awaiting the Public Service Board’s rulings on a series of preliminary motions in the pending case,” the Times Argus reported. VTel must obtain a certificate of public good from the PSB before any work begins. However, there have been motions filed on behalf of the Calais Select Board to dismiss the case as incomplete. Owners of adjoining properties have filed similar motions, but VTel’s attorney has opposed the motions, arguing that the Coalition’s participation is redundant, but would participate in a technical hearing if the Board feels one is warranted.

Brookville Opposes Tower Site

Most of the three hour meeting of the Franklin County Area Plan Commission in Brookville, Indiana, was taken up by 20 attendees who oppose Verizon’s newest project. Central States Tower requested a conditional use permit on behalf of Verizon, who would be the anchor tenant on the 270-foot structure, which would include a five-foot lightning rod. Due to the extra cost of building a new tower, Verizon tried to find an existing structure to co-locate on, but there weren’t any viable structures. Some residents worried about children climbing the tower, but there will be a seven-foot fence topped with barbed wire around it. The neighbors have started a petition that has about 60 signatures, and have submitted three letters opposing the placement of the structure. The Franklin County Board of Zoning Appeals makes the final decision after gaining FCAPC’s input. After a 2-2 vote over making an unfavorable recommendation, Verizon’s attorney asked for one month to explore other sites. This motion passed and Verizon will look at other locations that residents don’t oppose as much.

Two Towers Unwanted

Connecticut state officials are expected to review a tower proposal from North Atlantic Towers, who wants to place a 170-foot monopole in a residential neighborhood in Bethel, Connecticut. Just days before the Connecticut Siting Council is set to decide on this controversial proposal, Verizon has submitted a request to build a second tower, just three miles away from the other location. According to the News Times, “In its July 7 application, Verizon said the facility would increase network capacity and provide reliable wireless service to existing gaps in portions of northeast Danbury and northwest Bethel, especially along routes 53 and 302.” North Atlantic Towers’ tower proposal upset many residents who felt the structure would destroy their neighborhood’s rural character and devalue their properties.