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Inside Towers

Thursday, June 14, 2018 Volume 6 | Issue 116

Feds Consider Leasing Their Spectrum for Commercial Use

By Leslie Stimson, *Inside Towers* Washington Bureau Chief

Kelsey Guyselman

Smart Cities, IoT, drones and space exploration will all rely on spectrum and the White House believes crafting a national spectrum strategy is important. That's according to Kelsey Guyselman, policy advisor for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. She took part in a spectrum policy panel discussion Tuesday organized by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

Reallocating spectrum for the nation's future needs "is not a zero-sum game," said Guyselman. "I don't want [it] to be seen as taking [spectrum] from one group to give to another."

The White House, along with NTIA, the FCC, FAA, Department of Defense, the telecom and satellite industries and others are discussing developing a spectrum strategy for federal and non-federal users. "We can work together to maximize efficiencies," said Guyselman. Continue Reading

Indiana

County Challenges FCC for Piece of $4.53 Billion in Subsidies

The Brown County Broadband Task Force plans to challenge the FCC over the agency's belief that the county doesn't have gaps in 4G cell phone and broadband service.

The *Brown County Democrat* reported the Commission plans to make available up to $4.53 billion, over 10 years, to "primarily rural areas that lack unsubsidized 4G Long Term Evolution (LTE) service," via the Mobility Fund Phase II (MF- II) project. Currently, most of Indiana is ineligible for the MF-II funds, but the Brown County Broadband Task Force convener Scott Rudd says the group will challenge the process. This includes challenging the FCC coverage map, created by mobile service providers, submitting data showing their coverage areas.

The Brown County Broadband Task Force has been working for more than two years on expanding broadband internet coverage throughout the county, reported the *Democrat,* and they have until August 27, to submit a challenge

to the FCC.

AT&T-Time Warner Merger: “Be Careful What You Wish For"

“Be careful what you wish for,” cautioned Craig Moffett, Senior Analyst at MoffettNathanson on Tuesday’s court ruling. According to Moffett, AT&T finally got its prize with Judge Richard Leon’s unconditional approval of AT&T’s acquisition of Time Warner. Judge Leon made the unusual move of urging the Department of Justice not to seek a stay; barring any appeals, the deal will be consummated within the next few days.

“Time Warner will be a positive for AT&T’s income statement, at least initially,” Moffett said in a client report. “But it will be a negative for the balance sheet. The new AT&T will carry an astounding $249B of debt (inclusive of operating leases and postretirement obligations). If pro forma AT&T were a country, it would place 32nd on the list of highest total debt burdens, between Indonesia (at $335B) and the UAE ($220M). Pro forma leverage, on an adjusted basis, will now be 3.9x EBITDA,” he said. “And that leverage ratio will be supported by EBITDA that is shrinking – yes, shrinking – on an organic basis. And, yes, that’s true even with Time Warner included.”

D.C. Download

ACCESS Broadband Act Takes Next Step

Two bills of interest to towercos and telecoms passed the Communications and Technology Subcommittee of the House Commerce Committee yesterday. One bill the subcommittee passed and sent to the full committee was the "Advancing Critical Connectivity Expands Service, Small Business Resources, Opportunities, Access, and Data Based on Assessed Need and Demand Act" which stands for “ACCESS BROADBAND Act.” It would establish an office at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to coordinate and track federal funding for broadband across all agencies. This office would streamline the process of applying for federal funding for projects that expand broadband access.

Co-author Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ) said before the vote: “Broadband is the infrastructure of the 21st Century,” noting that deployment costs are “prohibitive” in many areas, which is why federal funding is vital. He offered an amendment that ensures community entities such as libraries can receive funding. The changed language also ensures federal dollars do not go towards areas where broadband already exists. This ensures federal money is “finite,” and “not wasted,” he said. Continue Reading

Tower Ticker

June 13, 2018 at Close

Symbol	Price	Change	% Change	Low	Volume	High	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
AMT	136.46	-4.68	-3.32%	136.03	2.27M	140.66	155.28	129.16
AMX	15.54	+0.15	+0.97%	15.37	4.48M	15.70	19.91	14.85
CCI	101.07	-3.61	-3.45%	100.93	2.60M	104.59	114.97	93.14
COMM	30.22	-0.02	-0.07%	29.97	1.37M	30.68	41.60	26.29
CTL	17.54	-0.41	-2.28%	17.54	7.19M	17.95	27.61	13.16
DY	97.27	+0.12	+0.12%	96.47	234.53k	97.94	123.99	73.95
ERIC	7.69	+0.25	+3.36%	7.57	7.13M	7.74	8.05	5.52
FTR	7.64	-0.13	-1.67%	7.62	3.02M	8.15	21.00	6.08
S	5.38	+0.07	+1.32%	5.35	23.90M	5.45	8.92	4.81
SBAC	156.37	-4.38	-2.72%	155.90	744.31k	160.50	177.67	130.74
T	32.22	-2.13	-6.20%	32.21	193.33M	33.14	39.80	31.17
TMUS	58.68	+0.59	+1.02%	58.39	6.18M	59.09	66.52	54.60
UNIT	23.10	-0.14	-0.60%	22.91	1.46M	23.40	27.78	13.81
VZ	47.40	-1.41	-2.89%	47.38	30.75M	48.55	54.77	42.80
ZAYO	36.01	-0.51	-1.40%	35.98	1.97M	36.50	37.95	29.73

Real-Time

Cell-ebrations

Michigan

Leelanau County Approves $125,000 Tower Upgrade Benefitting 911 Staff

Two towers in Leelanau County located near fire stations will get an upgrade that will benefit emergency workers, reported the *Record Eagle.* Currently, there are challenges with on-call emergency workers receiving pages, said Hugh Cook, fire chief of Leelanau Township Emergency Services.

The upgrade will consist of placing boosters on two towers, creating an 800 megahertz system, according to Matt Ansorge, emergency management director. The enhancements are expected to improve the coverage area for mobile radios, portable radios and pagers, in a terrain where bluffs and other topographic challenges are present,

reported the *Eagle*.

The cost of the enhancements is estimated at $125,000 and the Leelanau County Executive Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to recommend approval of the proposal from Radio North of Traverse City.

With the upgrades, Ansorge said, "We would be operating at the optimal radio capacity."

DAS/Small Cells

Brought to you by: NEUTRAL CONNECT NETWORKS

University of Colorado Boulder Picks 5 Bars

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU) chose 5 Bars to provide DAS and WiFi service for its Folsom Field and CU Events Center athletic facilities. The company says it will be the exclusive provider of a DAS, and WiFi, small cell and 3.5 GHz service at those facilities. The new systems will enable a more complete experience for cell phones and other wireless devices used in the venues, with boosted data capacity and better coverage.

5 Bars' parent company, Neutral Connect Networks' CEO Paul McGinn predicts "all the major carriers" will join its neutral DAS network, "providing better coverage for the entire CU community." 5 Bars plans to complete installation by year-end.

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International

Africa

American Tower Expands Portfolio in Kenya

Telkom Kenya (TKL) and American Tower Corporation (AMT) announced they've reached a definitive agreement for AMT to acquire up to 723 towers from TKL in Kenya, the carrier announced.

"We are excited to announce the launch of operations in Kenya through our agreement to acquire TKL's towers. This represents American Tower's 17th market globally, and our fifth in Africa, and we look forward to helping expand the reach of mobile broadband throughout the country," stated AMT President of EMEA and Latin America William H. Hess. "Kenya is a very attractive market, and we have high expectations for its long-term growth potential."

"This agreement, in which we will be partnering with a leading global tower company, will enhance the quality and reliability of our network to the benefit of our customers," said Telkom Kenya's Board Chair, Eddy Njoroge.

Town Hall

Colorado

Lamar Goes Thumbs Down on Tower

The Lamar City Council voted against a proposal to put an 100 foot tall cell tower by NE Colorado Cellular at 207

South 6th Street in Lamar, according to the *Prowers Journal.*

The site is in a C-2 zoning district and had been initially approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission in May. Code prohibits structures over 45 feet in a C-2 District although Rick Bailey, a spokesperson for the developer said wording allowed an exception to the restriction. Bailey cited the Telecommunications Act as well to get the tower approved.

City Attorney, Garth Neischburg, following the session said he would research the regulations, while Bailey would appeal to City Administrator for additional consideration for the council's vote, the *Prowers Journal* reported.

Tower Safety

Brought to you by: NATE

Registration Open for NWSA Webinar

The National Wireless Safety Alliance (NWSA) is encouraging industry employers, trainers and workers to register to participate in the organization's upcoming webinar on Wednesday, June 27. Titled "A Guide to Setting Up Your NWSA Practical Test Site," the free webinar aims to set up attendees for success and ensure candidates testing at your test site will have the best experience possible for their practical exams.

The presenter is NWSA Practical Exam Accreditation Program Instructor Clint Cook. He will walk through the most important elements of the Test Site Coordinator Handbook and provide some of the best lessons learned. Participants will learn the following:

- Tips on best site selection and layout;
- What materials you will need to source to complete your test site;
- Best practices on building the test course;
- How to most effectively use the site report;
- Roles and responsibilities of Practical Test Site Coordinators and others involved in practical testing; and
- How to be prepared for your first round of candidates.

The webinar is slated to begin at 11 a.m. Eastern, 10 a.m. Central, 9 a.m. Mountain, and 8 a.m. Pacific.

New Products

Epiq Releases New Receiver Card

Epiq Solutions, an engineering firm specializing in the development of flexible RF transceiver modules and complete turnkey wireless sensing solutions, has announced the launch of its Sidekiq™ X4 high bandwidth multi-channel RF transceiver card. Sidekiq X4 is based on the RadioVerse™ ADRV9009 wideband RF transceiver design from Analog Devices, Inc. and provides up to 800 MHz of instantaneous bandwidth with its four phase coherent (or independently tunable) RF receivers. Sidekiq X4 is compliant with the VITA 57.1 FPGA Mezzanine Card (FMC) form factor, with support for fully integrated 3U VPX and Thunderbolt™ 3 deployment options. Continue Reading

Broadcasting

Mississippi

Broadcast Tower Going Up

Radio station WXRZ-FM got the OK from the Corinth Preservation Commission to build a tower on Foote Street, according to the *Daily Corinthian*. Not to exceed 50 feet, the tower will extend only 15 feet above an adjacent building.

Two small dishes will be on the tower, and another dish will be on the back corner of the building, WXRZ GM Steve Knight told T*he Corinthian.* The station must still complete a series of regulatory moves.

Comp Country

Building Permits Issued: Jacksonville, FL

AT&T, 10976 Baymeadows Road, contractor is Ericsson Inc., cell tower upgrade, $65,000.

Source: Jacksonville Daily Record

Tower Jobs

APC Towers - Positions Open

APC Towers Based in Raleigh, North Carolina, APC Towers is a privately held owner, operator and developer of wireless communications infrastructure throughout the United States. APC Towers collaborates with wireless carriers to provide solutions to extend their coverage and capacity, ultimately

enhancing their wireless networks. **They are currently looking to hire for the following positions**, click for more info:

Senior Director, Development

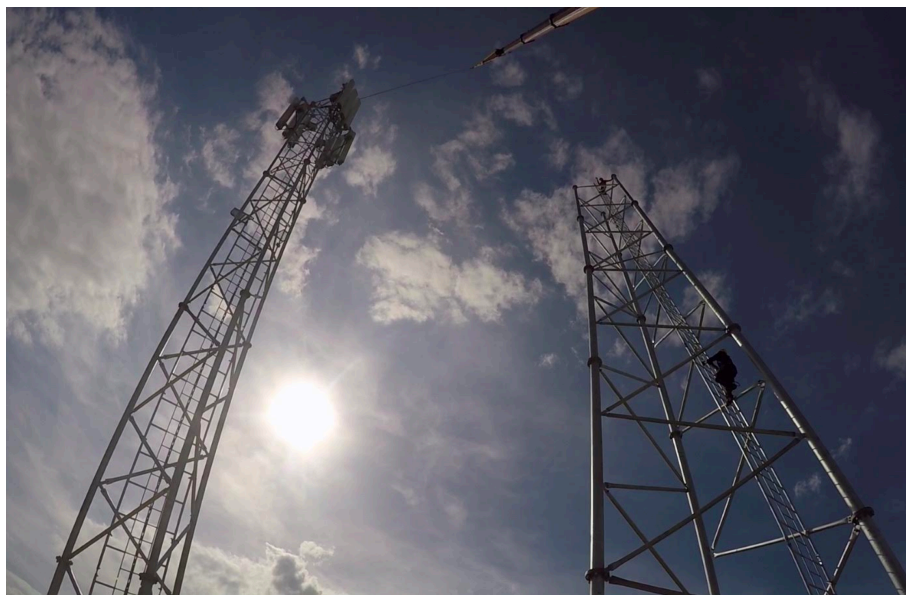
Project Director

Sioux Falls Tower - Crew Chief and Construction Managers

Sioux Falls Tower is currently looking to hire Crew Chiefs and Construction Managers at its Denver location. The position will involve leading teams involved in installation, maintenance, and repairs or retrofitting of towers and antenna systems. Work is done under various weather conditions throughout the region for all major cellular carriers, utility & wind energy companies. Join a growing team at Sioux Falls Tower & Communications, a company dedicated to the well-being of their employees and with an established reputation as leaders in quality, integrity and experience since 1989. Click here for more information.

Tower Shots

Brought to you by: DRAKE LIGHTING



A tower going up in Kopice, Poland contributed by Sebastian Makowski.

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