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Inside Towers

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 Volume 6 | Issue 56

FCC's O'Rielly Calls Out States for Diverting 911 Funds

FCC Commissioner Michael O'Rielly has no patience with states that divert their 911 fees for other uses. He slammed the practice Tuesday during a speech before the Rhode Island E911 Summit in Providence. His colleagues Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel and Chairman Ajit Pai have criticized the practice as well.

O'Rielly called it "appalling" that some states use the fees consumers pay on their phone bills that are supposed to be for 911, for "tangential or unrelated" purposes. He asked what conditions in Rhode Island make fee diversion a viable option for policymakers. "With a state budget of $9.3 billion, why is it necessary to divert a rather small amount – between $8 to $10 million – dedicated for public safety call centers and the 911 system to other spending priorities?" Continue Reading

Industry, Tribes at Odds Over Streamlining Small Cell Siting

By Leslie Stimson, Washington Bureau Chief, *Inside Towers*

Ahead of Thursday's FCC vote on ways to streamline wireless infrastructure siting for small cells, lobbying both for and against the proposal has increased. The Competitive Carriers Association (CCA) and member companies including Nex-Tech Wireless, HTC Inc. and GCI Communications Corp., tell the agency in filed comments examined by *Inside Towers*, that streamlining the process for historic and environmental review will expedite the siting process, ease concerns and provide "much needed clarity" surrounding siting applications. In lobbying visits at the FCC, CCA President/CEO Steve Berry said carriers, "face a plethora of unnecessary regulatory burdens when trying to build out their networks. There is no reason why small cells, many of which are well hidden from the public eye, should have to undergo the same arduous approval processes as large towers, and it is time for FCC action."

He cites examples of rising Tribal, historic and environmental paperwork and fees carriers face for small cell deployment. From January 2017 until now, the average CCA member deploying in the western United States reports that Tribal interest requests have escalated to an additional three-to-four per site, as compared to just a year ago, according to Berry. "In a three-to-six-month timeframe, a Wyoming carrier spends nearly $20,000 solely in [National Historic Preservation Act/National Environmental Policy Act] fees for each wireless tower deployment. In 2017, this same carrier faced a staggering $19,550 in Tribal review costs for a new tower in Wyoming, which included Tribal fees from 38 Tribes ranging from $200 to $1,500 per Tribe." Continue Reading

Will the Last Pay Phone User Please Hang Up When You're Done?

In today's largely digital world, would it surprise you to learn that the United States still has 100,000 pay phones in existence? This number is down from two million some 20 years ago, but pay phones are a steady business for the 1,100 companies still operating them. According to the most recent FCC report, the last generation of pay phones produce a total of $286 million in revenue, reported *KJRH-TV.*

In areas of the country where cell and landline service aren't available, pay phones fill a gap. According to Tom Keane, president of Pacific Telemanagement Services, "We have phones in Yosemite Valley that are extremely busy when there's not snow on the ground." Continue Reading

FCC 411

FCC's Rosenworcel Wants to Dump Spectrum Auctions, Modernize Allocation

Auctioning spectrum licenses to the highest bidder is so old school, says FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel. Instead, she suggests the Commission use blockchain to govern wireless spectrum use.

Blockchains are distributed databases that can be updated securely without need for intermediaries, she posits in an OpEd published in *Wired.* As wireless use proliferated over the past two decades, the FCC generally sold licenses for exclusive use at auction. "The highest bidder would walk away from an auction of specific spectrum bands with the right to exclude others and to use the airwaves they secured any way they saw fit," she writes. The agency kept some bands available for public use and this unlicensed spectrum is where most WiFi access takes place. Continue Reading

5G

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ENCQOR Project Announced to Boost Canadian 5G Efforts

The Government of Canada, along with the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, on Monday announced the first public-private partnership aimed at increasing economic growth driven by 5G technology. This $400-million project will secure over 4,000 jobs, including 1,800 specialized 5G positions, over the next five years, leading to new innovations in wireless telecommunications, they claim. In addition, the project is expected to create jobs at SMEs across Ontario and Quebec.

The ENCQOR project will be led by five global digital technology heavyweights (Ericsson, Ciena Canada, Thales Canada, IBM Canada and CGI).

The governments, small and medium-sized businesses, and academics will collaborate on 5G technology development through linked research facilities and laboratories located in Ontario and Quebec. This network will

provide access to advanced technologies such as programmable broadband networks, the Internet of Things, silicon photonics, big-data analysis and cloud computing.

“This exciting 5G initiative will help our businesses here in Ontario—and across Canada—capitalize on the vast potential of high-speed communications technology to expand their horizons,” said Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development.

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Tower Ticker

March 20, 2018 at Close

Symbol	Price	Change	% Change	Low	Volume	High	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
AMT	146.32	+1.20	+0.83%	145.69	2.46M	147.62	155.28	116.32
AMX	18.88	+0.03	+0.16%	18.83	1.75M	18.99	19.52	13.92
CCI	108.88	+0.69	+0.64%	108.32	3.47M	110.02	114.97	90.44
COMM	40.31	-0.18	-0.44%	40.12	716.49k	40.60	42.75	30.95
CTL	16.25	-0.43	-2.58%	16.15	10.49M	16.84	27.61	13.16
DY	109.60	-0.89	-0.81%	109.50	323.09k	111.64	123.99	73.95
ERIC	6.57	-0.09	-1.35%	6.55	3.13M	6.63	7.47	5.52
FTR	6.95	-0.05	-0.71%	6.75	2.73M	7.13	36.60	6.08
S	5.205	-0.045	-0.86%	5.15	14.40M	5.23	9.22	4.91
SBAC	169.33	+0.37	+0.22%	168.98	1.36M	171.11	177.67	115.40
T	36.34	-0.24	-0.66%	36.18	19.81M	36.82	42.70	32.55
TMUS	62.78	-0.44	-0.70%	62.69	2.53M	64.11	68.88	54.60
UNIT	16.82	-0.10	-0.59%	16.71	1.76M	17.25	27.78	13.81
VZ	47.69	-0.62	-1.28%	47.58	10.56M	48.59	54.77	42.80
ZAYO	35.30	+0.47	+1.35%	34.82	2.33M	35.43	37.95	29.73

Real-Time

MVP Will Be In Nashville
At The South Wireless Summit
March 26-28. Contact us for a confidential discussion
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Zoning & Moaning

Georgia

SB 426 Sends Munis Up a Creek Without a Paddle, City Council Says

GA Senate Bill 426, known as "The Broadband Infrastructure Leads To Development Act," aims to streamline installation of wireless facilities by allowing construction in city-owned rights-of-way. The bill easily passed the Georgia Senate in a 52-2 vote and is now being considered by the Georgia House of Representatives, but local governments, such as the Johns Creek City Council and cities including Roswell, Alpharetta, and Milton, do not support the bill.

According to the *Johns Creek Patch*, the Johns Creek City Council passed a resolution in opposition to the bill, which the City Council says "does not strike an appropriate balance between the need for deployment of wireless broadband infrastructure and the need for local governments to effectively manage the aesthetics of its own right-of-way," as stated in the City Council's resolution. Continue Reading

California Deals With Gaps in Public Warning System

The natural disasters that hit California in 2017 revealed gaps in the state's county-controlled warning systems which failed to reach most residents in harm's way, reported *Firehouse.*

Some challenges resulted from counties using a mix of services from multiple vendors, subscriber programs with low participation rates, outdated landline lists, and a public cell phone alert system that some consider imprecise, so some emergency managers wouldn't use it. Mark Ghilarducci, director of the Office of Emergency Services, commented on the various systems. "Some are better. Some are worse. We have seen a lot of inconsistencies."

Now senators from both Sonoma County, affected by last year's fires, and Santa Barbara County, ravaged by both fires and mudslides, are advocating for a bill to override state privacy laws to automatically enroll residents in emergency notification systems. Continue Reading

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Cell-ebrations

And Nominees For the Smartest Cities Are…

The finalists in the inaugural Smart Cities North American Awards (SCNAA) were announced Friday by the International Data Corporation's global insights division (IDC), a Chinese-owned, Massachusetts-based market research firm.

The awards recognize those North American communities that have been most successful in completing "smart cities" projects, which leverage technology to improve urban operations and better serve city residents by encouraging innovation and the sustainable development of infrastructure, social services, and local government.

Twenty-six contenders out of 70 submissions from 16 states were chosen as finalists for the awards, which are organized by category. According to the IDC, finalists in the SCNAA illustrate best practice examples of urban innovation with a particular focus on the use of technology (cloud, platforms, analytics, IoT, mobile solutions) and data, unique partnerships, funding models and community involvement. Continue Reading

International

Canada Gets Wireless Alerts Next Month

In Canada, cell phone users will soon receive wireless emergency alerts. The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission made it mandatory for wireless providers to push alerts to compatible Wireless Public Alerting devices by 2018. This week, Telus, Bell, and Rogers began to notify users of the safety feature and activating it via text message, reports *MTL Blog.*

In Canada, they're calling it the Alert Ready system; it officially begins on April 6. The U.S. has had Wireless Emergency Alerts since 2012.

Argentina

Tower One Takes the High Ground in South America

Tower One announced the site acquisition of 80 new potential tower sites in Argentina. Each wireless tower site consists of leasing of the underlying real estate as well as the rights to build wireless cell towers. The company anticipates that construction on these sites will commence shortly and will significantly add to its current portfolio of over 40 wireless towers in Colombia and Argentina and backlog of over 300 search rings.

In addition to the 80 new tower sites, Tower One is currently under construction on 15 towers in Argentina. The company was also notified that eight towers have received co-location applications, hosting multiple carrier clients on a single wireless tower. Co-location on existing towers, will increase revenue to each tower with only a marginal investment.

Tower Trends

Cell Phone Inventor Says “Next Big Thing” is Wireless Charging

Marty Cooper

The first handheld cell phone, built by Motorola executive and researcher Marty Cooper, was introduced in 1973. Now Cooper is looking ahead to the future of cell phones, and in a conversation with *CNNMoney,* he explored innovations in wireless charging technology. The tech-savvy consumer of the future will have not only a cell phone to charge, but also a variety of connected accessories, like smart glasses and watches. "You won't want to take all them off and plug them in," Cooper said. "That's why they ought to be charging all the time."

Several companies are in the running to take the reins on wireless charging innovations, including Wi-Charge, which proposes using lasers, and U-Beam, which wants to power phones with sound waves, according to *CNNMoney,* but Cooper believes that Energous (WATT), which is developing technology to charge devices using radio frequencies, will ultimately prevail. The Energous transmitter converts radio waves into power, allowing equipped gadgets to charge from anywhere in the range of the transmitter. “It won't involve any active participation by the customer, and the best technology is invisible," Cooper said. Continue Reading

Top Tower Tweets

Click the image above to see the full story/tweet the Chairman retweeted

Spring Product Showcase

The inaugural spring showcase will run in *Inside Towers* the weeks of **May 13 and May 20.** We will be spotlighting a segment of the industry each day. The timing is ideal, as it is right before and during the WIA’s Connect X show. This is a great opportunity to reach OUR audience, leaders in the telecom industry, with YOUR latest products and services.

Only ONE company or product per segment will be featured, so this is an exclusive opportunity. At the end of the showcase, a beautiful PDF booklet of the features will be highlighted in our newsletter, on our website and blasted out over social media. It can also be shared with your customers. Categories being offered are:

Monday, May 14: **Antennas/RF** **Category Full**
Tuesday, May 15: **Safety** **Category Full**
Wednesday, May 16: **Shelters, Enclosures & Temporary Towers** **Category Full**
Thursday, May 17: **DAS/Small Cells**
Friday, May 18: **Construction** **Category Full**
Monday, May 21: **Drones** **Category Full**
Tuesday, May 22: **Site Acq/Real Estate** **Category Full**
Wednesday, May 23: **Business Services**
Thursday, May 24: **Electrical**
Friday, May 25: **Concealment** **Category Full**

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- Communications or business degree is preferred
- Effective communicator and presenter, written and verbal
- Self-motivated and proactive professional with proven track record of results
- Hard-working, trustworthy individual with positive attitude

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