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Inside Towers

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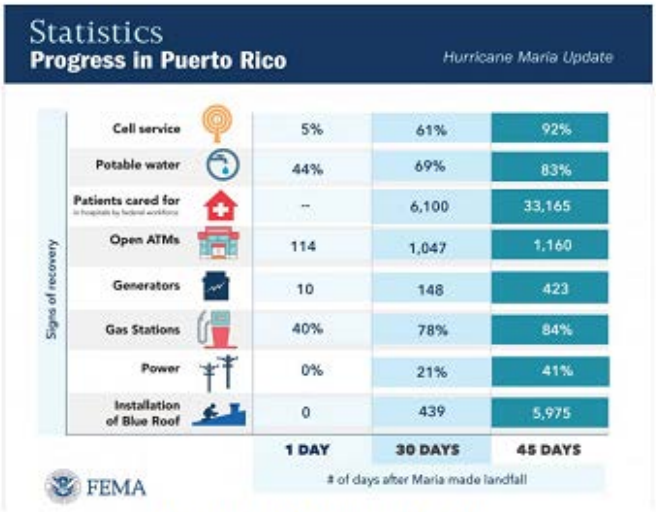
Pai Sees Tower Site, “Unimaginable” Damage in Puerto Rico



Source: FEMA tweet 11.6.17

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai traveled to a mountaintop tower in eastern Puerto Rico this week to get a first-hand view of recovery efforts and damage caused by Hurricane Maria. He met with government officials and communications company representatives to learn what still needs to be done to restore communications.

Pai met personnel from carriers AT&T, Open Mobile, T-Mobile and Verizon as well as fixed wireless providers Aeronet and Neptuno Networks; wired providers like Claro/PRTC and Liberty and several radio broadcasters. “They have stepped up to the plate, working overtime to connect the disconnected,” he said.

Pai called the damage “unimaginable” and said: “I saw some of it for myself, from a mountaintop tower in El Yunque National Forest, which is hard to reach due to storm damage but is precariously operational, to destroyed homes in San Juan. The path to recovery has met several challenges, most notably the lack of power and functional infrastructure. One thing is clear: overcoming these challenges won’t be easy,” the Chairman added in Tuesday’s announcement. Continue Reading

Australia

Cockatoos Love Their Fiber (Cables) in Australia

The Australian government already incurred $80,000 in repairs on its NBN system due to birds...cockatoos to be exact. *The Daily Mail* reported that cockatoos have been sharpening their beaks on spare power and fiber cables and causing considerable damage.

According to NBN Co's Build Project Manager Chedryian Bresland, “You wouldn't think it was possible, but these birds are unstoppable when in a swarm. I guess that's Australia for you; if the spiders and snakes don't get you, the cockies will.”

The spare cables being targeted, which have been hooked up for future use, remain unprotected and have become the cockatoos’ favorite brunch-time snack. Already, eight towers have been damaged by the birds and now special UV-stable cases are being built on top of all the cables to prevent future damage.

Wells Fargo 2017 Media & Telecom Conference

2018 is Year of Lightower Integration for Crown

Crown Castle is bullish on its anticipated performance in 2018. The towerco is focused on the integration of Lightower Fiber and believes the more than $7 billion deal puts it in a good position to help carriers densify their networks with small cells. Crown Castle CFO Dan Schlanger spoke with Wells Fargo tower analyst Jennifer Fritzsche Tuesday at the Wells Fargo 2017 Media & Telecom Conference. Schlanger touched on several topics -- such as the towerco outlook for next year, the Lightower acquisition, infrastructure deployment challenges, FirstNet and the stopped Sprint-T-Mobile deal -- during the half-hour discussion.

Tower Business: “There is so much data demand happening and that drives our business. New demand onto macro towers and onto small cells will be very robust over the next few years.” Crown is receiving more inquiries regarding small cells and that leasing is growing, and “becoming a bigger portion” of a carrier’s network spend, said Schlanger. Crown believes small cells are co-locatable, “not necessarily on the same pole but on the fiber.” Some thirty percent of its business is co-location with “75,000 nodes on existing fiber.” The majority, 70 percent, remains macro towers. Continue Reading

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Tower Ticker

November 7, 2017 at Close

Symbol	Price	Change	% Change	Low	Volume	High	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
AMT	150.62	+0.46	+0.31%	146.83	2.44M	150.79	150.96	99.72
AMX	17.45	-0.10	-0.57%	17.36	3.89M	17.72	19.50	11.02
CCI	111.77	-0.04	-0.04%	110.44	2.54M	112.46	114.84	79.38
COMM	33.91	-0.89	-2.56%	33.85	1.88M	35.14	42.75	30.95
CTL	16.23	-0.44	-2.64%	16.14	11.98M	16.72	27.61	16.04
DY	90.72	-0.50	-0.55%	90.15	299.56k	91.62	110.64	70.33
ERIC	6.48	-0.03	-0.46%	6.44	6.40M	6.49	7.47	4.89
FTR	8.12	+0.05	+0.62%	7.84	2.95M	8.30	57.30	7.36
LVLT	53.63	0.00	0.00%	52.66	3.12M	53.63	64.61	50.82
S	5.74	-0.16	-2.63%	5.74	27.16M	5.97	9.65	5.72
SBAC	165.65	+1.23	+0.75%	162.56	1.31M	165.88	167.44	95.66
T	33.06	+0.20	+0.61%	32.71	28.17M	33.12	43.03	32.55
TMUS	55.36	-0.18	-0.32%	54.60	8.54M	56.03	68.88	49.05
UNIT	16.53	-0.27	-1.61%	16.40	3.89M	16.80	29.65	13.81
VZ	45.56	+0.03	+0.07%	44.68	25.67M	45.59	54.83	42.80
ZAYO	34.46	+0.10	+0.29%	33.90	3.93M	35.66	36.79	29.30

Zayo’s First Fiscal Quarter 2018 Financial Highlights

Communications Infrastructure company Zayo Group Holdings (NYSE: ZAYO) announced results for the three months ended September 30, 2017.

First quarter operating income decreased by $10 million and net income remained consistent at $23.2 million, compared to the previous quarter. Basic and diluted net income per share during the first fiscal quarter was $0.09. During the three months ended September 30, capital expenditures were $193.4 million. As of the end of the most recent quarter, the company had $291.2 million of cash and $442.2 million available under its revolving credit facility.

- $643.5 million of consolidated revenue; including $515.8 million from the Communications Infrastructure segments and $127.7 million from the Allstream segment;
- Net income of $23.2 million, including $11.5 million from the Communications Infrastructure segments and $11.7 million from the Allstream segment;
- $316.6 million of adjusted EBITDA, including $285.8 million from Communications Infrastructure and $30.8 million from the Allstream segment;
- Bookings of $7.6 million, gross installs of $7.3 million, churn of 1.2 percent and net installs of $1.2 million, all on

a monthly recurring revenue and monthly amortized revenue basis, excluding the Allstream segment.
- Adjusted unlevered free cash flow of $130.9 million.

Zoning & Moaning

Arizona

Verizon Tower Project Nixed Over RF, Autism Concerns

The Pinetop-Lakeside Board of Adjustment rejected an application for a variance request by Verizon Wireless to build a 94-foot tower, reported the *White Mountain Independent*.

According to Town Community Development Director Cody Blake, Verizon's interest in building a new tower was a "complaint-driven" response from residents' requests.

However, it seems that most residents aren't interested in a tower being constructed in their neighborhood. Many responded with concerns over possible negative health effects and property values dropping five to twenty percent. Even though most residents agreed that service is poor in the area, it seems the pros of connectivity do not outweigh the cons of potential health risks and decreased property values. Continue Reading

Cell-ebrations

Brought to you by: ANCHORGUARD

Verizon Commits $500,000 to Support North Bay Wildfire Relief Efforts

Verizon is supporting Northern California communities through a $500,000 contribution to fund the North Bay wildfire relief efforts, according to Verizon Chairman & CEO Lowell McAdam. The nation's most reliable wireless provider pledged these funds to the Tipping Point Emergency Relief Fund, supporting immediate and long-term needs.

"The unprecedented North Bay fires affected thousands of people who live and work in this community," McAdam said. "Running to a crisis is what we do at Verizon. By partnering with Tipping Point we can help North Bay families and businesses recover and rebuild."

"Verizon's support will help low-income communities hit hardest by the fires," said Daniel Lurie, CEO + Founder of Tipping Point Community. "We are tremendously grateful for their leadership and generosity." Continue Reading

Town Hall

Wisconsin

Bug Tussel Has Fond du Lac County Covered

Fond du Lac County's agreement with Bug Tussel Wireless to expand broadband services across the county has worked out well, according to *KFIZ-AM.*

Originally, the project aimed for 80 internet customers per tower with a total of 12 towers. But Bug Tussel owner Steven Schneider told the County Board they got much more than that with 14 towers, and the number of customers they have will allow them to pay for the bonds they took out as well as interest. They have 1,483 new broadband customers or 106 customers per tower. The project became self-sustaining nine months ago.

Schneider says they will be doing some upgrades. That includes higher speeds of 100 megabytes per second for some sites in the network. Bug Tussel will be absorbing the costs for those upgrades, *KFIZ-AM* reported. Schneider said there are a couple of holes in the network. That includes the Eden area, another near Fairwater and also in Ladoga.

Carrier Coverage

AT&T Deploys Flying COW in PR; Verizon Ups Grants

Source: AT&T

In Puerto Rico, AT&T deployed its helicopter Flying COW (Cell on Wings) for the first time ever in a real-world environment delivering LTE data, voice and text services to customers. The news comes as FCC Chairman Ajit Pai toured the area to assess the status of recovery efforts and consult with local government officials on next steps that the FCC should take to help the restoration of communications networks. (*see top story*)

The Flying COW is providing wireless connectivity to customers in an up to 40-square mile-area. It flies 200 feet above the ground and can extend coverage farther than other temporary cell sites — it's ideal for providing coverage in remote areas, according to the carrier.

LTE-connected drones hold a lot of potential for FirstNet-subscribers. This deployment gives AT&T a chance to help restore temporary connectivity on the island as well as assess how first responders can use the drone in the future. Continue Reading

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5G

Japanese Carrier Initiates Multi-Party 5G Connected Car Trial

Source: NTT DOCOMO

Japanese mobile carrier NTT DOCOMO said in a 5G connected car trial with Toyota, Ericsson and Intel, it achieved data speeds of up to 1 Gbps for 4K-resolution video communications with a vehicle traveling at 30 km/h. The technology will be demonstrated at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation in Tokyo tomorrow through November 11 as part of DOCOMO R&D Open House 2017.

The November 2 trial along Tokyo's waterfront involved a moving Toyota Alphard mounted with an Intel GOTM 5G Automotive Platform terminal and equipped with a compact on-board antenna. Using multiple Ericsson base stations and Cloud-RAN, the vehicle successfully streamed live video at data speeds of up to 1 Gbps downlink/600 Mbps uplink. The carrier says this demonstrates 5G's ultra-high speed data rates, extra-low latency and massive connectivity.

Further trials will be conducted with Ericsson, Intel and Toyota to test the practicality of services for 5G-connected cars and other applications. Parties say this was the first 5G multi-vendor interoperability trial involving a device connected to a base station in an automotive environment.

International

Philippines

Under-served By 20,000 Cell Sites, Government is Spurred to Action

The vice chairman of the Philippines House Committee on Appropriations last Sunday urged the government to shape up the country's telecommunication companies by passing a measure mandating "minimum quality standards" for mobile telephone services, according to the *Business Mirror.*

Rep. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr. of the Second District of Camarines Sur issued the statement after Chinese tech billionaire Jack Ma expressed indictment on the state of internet services in the Philippines.

“Government regulators should all the more crack the whip on the country’s telecommunication companies for them to shape up,” he said.“The frank observation by Ma during his Manila visit on the quality of the country’s internet services should not be taken lightly by the National Telecommunications Commission, given that this came from a global technopreneur who has built his fortune on internet-based businesses, including e-commerce giant Alibaba,” he told the *Business Mirror.* Continue Reading

Comp Country

InSite Wireless Buys Four Towers From Ramar Communications

Ramar Communications sold four towers in New Mexico and Texa to InSite Wireless Group, LLC. No price was disclosed by the broker Kalil & Co.

InSite Wireless Group LLC, owns more than 1,700 telecommunications towers and sites across the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Australia, and Canada.

Ramar Communications, owns towers in Texas, along with radio and television stations in Texas, New Mexico and Colorado.

Tower Tribe

Mariana Agathoklis Named Communications Vice President at Verizon

Mariana Agathoklis | PRNewsfoto/Verizon

Mariana Agathoklis has been named vice president of corporate communications at Verizon Communications Inc. She will lead strategy and implementation of external communications and be a key part of the leadership team on issues and initiatives affecting the company. She reports to Jim Gerace, Verizon chief communications officer, effective today.

Agathoklis was most recently vice president of communications at MTV, where she led a New York/LA-based communications team whose work spanned MTV's series, specials and initiatives across its linear, digital, mobile and social media platforms, including the "MTV Video Music Awards," MTV's Emmy-Award winning public affairs campaigns and MTV News.

She was also responsible for corporate/brand communications efforts involving senior MTV leadership and MTV's industry-leading research division. A graduate of Boston University's College of Communication, she will be based at the Verizon Center in Basking Ridge, NJ.

In Memoriam: Clarence “Cory” Hale

Clarence “Cory” Hale, 48, of West Fork, AR died last Thursday afternoon while working on a 190 foot monopole near Wheeler, AR when a piece of the crane fell off and fatally injured him.

According to the Washington County Sheriff’s Department, Cory’s crew was in the process of setting up a large crane to work on the tower. The crane was set and leveled and they were in the process of putting the boom together. During this process, a piece of the crane (25 ft. long) fell, striking the victim and pinning him to the ground.

Cory’s employer, Multi-Craft Contractors (MCC) President Rick Barrows issued the following statement:
“Multi-Craft Contractors lost a friend and co-worker yesterday in a tragic accident. He represented the best of us in his attitude, work ethic, and friendship. We are devastated by this tragedy and that it occurred in spite of our best efforts to train and work safely. We are working with authorities to determine the cause. We ask for your thoughts and prayers for his family at this time.”

Association News

NATE UNITE 2018 Features Tower Family Foundation Golf Outing February 18

Get an early start to your 2018 golf season by hitting the links and participating in the Tower Family Foundation Golf Invitational! This exciting golf outing will take place on Sunday, February 18, 2018, at the Gaylord Springs Golf Links in Nashville, Tennessee. This event is powered by NATE’s Wireless Industry Network and all proceeds raised will benefit tower workers and their families in the aftermath of an industry accident or fatality situation. Make your sponsorship and registration plans today!

Tower Family Foundation Golf Invitational

When: Sunday, February 18, 2018
Where: Gaylord Springs Golf Links (18 Springhouse Lane, Nashville, Tennessee)
Time: Registration Begins at 9:30 a.m. CST; Shotgun Start at 11 a.m. CST
Cost: Team of 4 - $900; Individual Golfer - $250, Golf Clubs Rental- $60
Format: 4 Person Scramble (Best Ball Rules)
Registration Fee Includes: 18-hole round of golf, box lunch at the start of the event, beverages on the course and buffet reception after the event.
Registration for the invitational may be completed online when registering for NATE UNITE 2018 or by completing the Registration Form and returning it to the NATE office.

Tower-Pro

Claim or Create Your Listing

Tower-Pro.com, *Inside Towers*’ companion **Buyer’s Guide**, boasts over 3,500 listings in 130+ categories - all of which are relevant to the telecom and/or tower industry. Tower-Pro is a go-to resource for thousands of users each year. You can enhance your listing to make sure your company is noticed first. Below is a chart outlining the differences between a basic and enhanced listing. Seems like a no-brainer to us. An enhanced listing is a nominal $250 fee.

Search for and claim your listing, create a listing or enhance your listing today or contact us for assistance.

BENEFITS	ENHANCED	BASIC
Featured on Tower-Pro.com homepage	X	
Premier listing placement in up to three categories	X	
Company contact information	X	X
Up to 5 product images or logos	X	
Full company description including HTML	X	
Links to social media sites	X	X
Additional media uploads	X	

Tower Calendar

See All Calendar Events

Carolinas

Wireless Association Holiday Social

December 7, 2017 @ TopGolf Charlotte - 7:30 - 10:30pm (benefiting Toys for Tots)

Get ready to spread the Holiday Cheer with your wireless colleagues from all over the state at the CWA Holiday Social on Thursday, December 7 at TopGolf Charlotte from 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.! There will be food, beverages and access to eight golf bays and a Golf Pro to work out those kinks before the Pinehurst Tournament in May! So, register now! Sponsorships available. Click here to register.

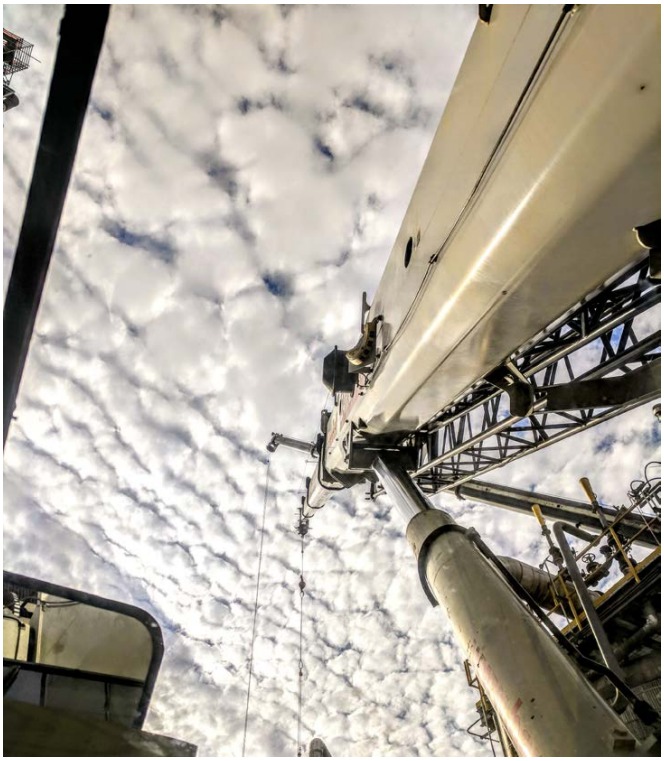
Tower Jobs

CLARKNEXSEN

Clark Nexsen is a national architecture and engineering firm focused on creating innovative design solutions for U.S. and global clients. They are passionate about their work and are prominently ranked on numerous industry lists. Building Design + Construction ranks Clark Nexsen as a Top 20 architecture and engineering firm and has been named to the Architect 50 list of top U.S. firms for the past four years. Headquartered in Virginia Beach, Virginia, with 450 employees in office locations in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Texas, they offer outstanding compensation, benefits, and growth opportunities in a positive work environment. Clark Nexsen is currently hiring the following positions. Click the links for full job descriptions. Must apply online through corporate website.

Civil CAD Technician
Civil Engineer EIT
Civil Engineer PE
Structural Engineer PE

Tower Shots



Climbers in Sanbornville, NH contributed by Nicholas Balzano.

Email your tower shots or upload them here. Please be sure to include the tower location.

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