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Inside Towers

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## TR-14 Standard Committee Remembers Ernie Jones

The Telecommunications Industry Association's Steel Antenna tower engineering committee met this week in Las Vegas to focus on revising and updating the TR-14 standard. The Engineering Committee TR-14 is responsible for the ANSI/EIA/TIA-222, Structural Steel Standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Supporting Structures standard. During a quorum meeting on Wednesday, the committee dedicated the TIA-322 standard (to be released before the end of 2016) to Ernest "Ernie" R. Jones, P.E. Jones, a highly-respected icon of the tower industry, died in a tower accident in Oklahoma in October, 2015.

"This standard is dedicated to the memory of Ernest (Ernie R.) Jones, P.E. Ernie was a tireless worker for the industry and never hesitated to share his extensive knowledge to proliferate understanding and development within the tower industry. Ernie was brilliant yet humble, and a true servant to others. His work ethic was unmatched and he never said no when approached," noted the dedication. "He was a driving force in the development of the initial ANSI/TIA – 1019, 2004 Gin Pole Standard, leading the research and technical developments it represented. He continued as co-chairman for the technical section of the ANSI/TIA- 1019, 2011,or Tower Construction Standard. He was a participating member of the TR147 Committee of the Telecommunications Industry Association and Electronics Industry Association since 1986. Ernie was genuine, professional, and deeply respected by all who knew him, and his contributions to the tower industry will long be remembered." Continue Reading

## 1 BASE Jumper Dead, 2 Arrested in GA TV 1,600' Tower Leap

Authorities recovered the body of a 37-year-old man who reportedly jumped from WCTV.TV's 2,000-foot tower in Metcalf, GA early yesterday. He was later identified by authorities as Brandon Jackson. Two other men, Miles Daisher and Tom Baker, described as BASE jumpers, were in custody of the Thomas County Sheriff's Office. *WCTV.TV* reports the jumpers called authorities after searching for the unidentified jumper for about an hour, according to the sheriff's office. Authorities confirmed Jackson's body was found late Thursday morning.

The sheriff's department said the three men arrived at the tower around midnight. Daisher and Baker told authorities they stayed on the ground with radios while Jackson climbed about 1,600 feet before he jumped. According to *WCTV.TV,* Daisher and Baker also told authorities that they heard Jackson's parachute deploy and thought that the jumper may have struck a wire on the way down.

The Thomas County Sheriff's Office confirmed Jackson's body was found in trees that are about 800 to 1000 yards away from the tower, which is leased by NBC-40 and Tallahassee's Fox affiliate. Continue Reading

## Ukranian, Russian Daredevils Evade Security, Climb 1,820' Korean Tower

BASE Jumping is a global activity and problem. It presents a significant liability to communications tower owners and to tall commercial properties worldwide. Not too many hours before the Georgia tower incident (above) took place, security officers at the South Korean landmark Lotte World Tower in Seoul were left red-faced after two "skywalkers" evaded their cordon and scaled the 1,820-foot building, according a Thursday report in the *London Telegraph*. Security had been stepped up at the site of the building - which will be the fifth-tallest skyscraper in the world when it is finished - after Vitaliy Raskalov, a Ukrainian, and Vadim Makhorov, from Russia, announced their presence in Seoul by posting photos of themselves in the city on social media sites.

About 400 security officers were deployed around the clock, Lotte officials told l media, while mugshots of Raskalov and Makharov were posted at entrances to the construction site. The precautions were in vain, however, after Raskalov posted images on Tuesday of his feet on a yellow crane at the top of the partly completed, 123-story structure. Continue Reading

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## Petzl RopeTrip 2016 This Weekend in Salt Lake City

Hey! In case you forgot, Petzel Marketing Director/North America Dave Hugar reminds TowerLand the third edition of the Petzl RopeTrip is happening NOW in Salt Lake City, Utah. That's right, April 1-4. Dave says the "not-to-be missed" international competition and symposium is where rope access specialists from around the world vie against one another in a series of challenges. Three-person teams showcase their skill, speed and respect for safety to secure a place on the podium.

"Annually, the Petzl RopeTrip attracts the world's most prominent rope access technicians, companies and organizations and provides them with unparalleled opportunities for knowledge, sharing and global networking," Hugar said.

The final competition will take place on the iconic and ultra-modern Salt Lake City Public Library building in downtown Salt Lake City, Sunday, 4:30 to 7:30 pm. The public is invited to attend this free event. Continue Reading

## With Right Disguise, Eco-Site Could Get 100' Tower in Miami Shores, FL

Miami Shores, FL is seeking help from Eco-Site to assist in disguising a cell tower that will be placed within town

limits. Eco-Site is known for disguising towers, or at least transforming them to look like clock towers or something else residents feel is more aesthetically agreeable. Miami Shores sought the company's help after residents tried to halt approval of the tower due to its height.

Residents do not want the town council to approve a zoning variance for the tower. Currently, the proposed site is zoned for 40-foot structures, but the variance would allow a 100-foot tower to be constructed.

*Broward-Palm Beach New Times* reports Eco-Site's original idea to disguise the tower as a pine tree has already been rejected. No public comment has been sought regarding how the tower will be disguised, although a representative of the company says the project is in its early stages.

## Tower Ticker

### March 31, 2016 at Close

| SYMBOL | TIME & PRICE | | CHG & % CHG | | DAY'S LOW & HIGH | | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AMT | 04:00pm EDT | 102.37 | +0.06 | +0.06% | 101.88 | 102.93 | 1,552,825 |
| AMX | 04:00pm EDT | 15.53 | -0.02 | -0.13% | 15.31 | 15.94 | 2,973,413 |
| CCI | 04:01pm EDT | 86.50 | -0.43 | -0.49% | 86.48 | 87.35 | 3,026,657 |
| CTL | 04:01pm EDT | 31.96 | +0.09 | +0.28% | 31.69 | 32.49 | 6,733,912 |
| DY | 04:01pm EDT | 64.67 | +0.57 | +0.89% | 63.35 | 65.47 | 527,578 |
| ERIC | 04:00pm EDT | 10.03 | -0.02 | -0.20% | 9.98 | 10.06 | 2,705,048 |
| FTR | 04:00pm EDT | 5.59 | -0.04 | -0.71% | 5.59 | 5.72 | 23,206,945 |
| LVLT | 04:00pm EDT | 52.85 | +0.01 | +0.02% | 52.59 | 53.12 | 1,537,610 |
| S | 04:10pm EDT | 3.48 | +0.03 | +0.87% | 3.35 | 3.49 | 14,149,642 |
| SBAC | 04:00pm EDT | 100.17 | +0.21 | +0.21% | 99.64 | 101.13 | 889,135 |
| T | 04:10pm EDT | 39.17 | -0.20 | -0.51% | 39.01 | 39.57 | 29,365,942 |
| TMUS | 04:00pm EDT | 38.30 | -0.14 | -0.36% | 38.01 | 38.65 | 3,801,348 |
| VZ | 04:10pm EDT | 54.08 | +0.04 | +0.07% | 53.92 | 54.26 | 13,736,234 |
| ZAYO | 04:10pm EDT | 24.24 | -0.04 | -0.16% | 23.98 | 24.37 | 1,053,383 |

Real-Time

## Zoning & Moaning

### Verizon Plays Location Leap Frog with South Peabody, MA

After several jumps around South Peabody finding the perfect location for a tower, Verizon thinks it may have it—however there still are those who disagree on the Coolidge Avenue spot.

This all began on August. 28, 2014, when the Peabody City Council denied Verizon's special permit needed to install the 60-foot tower on Lynn Street, behind Michael's Limousine. Verizon sued, and during that lawsuit, the city also denied Verizon access to "locate attachments on city utility poles," according the *Salem News*.

After evaluating the city for the best spot to help with cell coverage and spotty service, Verizon and Peabody proposed grounds of the city water treatment plant at the end of Coolidge Avenue. That area, however, is surrounded by residences, the Cedar Grove Cemetery and Fountain Pond. While Verizon said that assisting with coverage gaps in homes will increase property values, members of the town council are asking to see more evidence. Some told the newspaper they would never vote for a tower near a residential area because they are "an eyesore." Continue Reading

### If Approved, T-Mobile Gets Taller Tower In NJ Location Trade

The Bridgewater, NJ Town Council introduced an ordinance during its March 21, meeting to lease less than an acre of land at the Bridgewater Township Library to T-Mobile. The introduction of the ordinance was stipulated in a recent settlement with the wireless carrier, in which the township agreed to lease a piece of land in public bid for the construction of the cell tower, while T-Mobile withdrew its application to build a tower at the Green Knoll Fire Department.

According to Tap Into the Breeze, a local news source, T-Mobile originally sought to construct a 125-foot tower in 2012. When that application was denied, T-Mobile took legal action again the town's Board of Adjustment. In the settlement, a 150-foot monopole tower will be built at the site near the library. It will hold up to five wireless carriers. T-Mobile will have a reserved spot on the tower.
A public hearing for the tower ordinance will be held on April 4.

### AT&T Files Lawsuit, Says Kentucky City Violates Rules

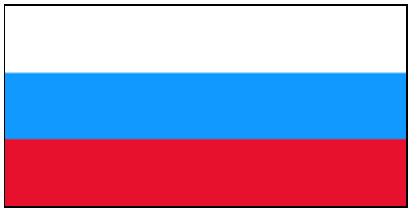
A lawsuit filed at the federal level states that the Kentucky-based Louisville Metro Council exceeded its authority in passing an ordinance allowing Google Fiber to install equipment on local AT&T utility poles.

The *Courier-Journal* said AT&T wants a federal judge “to clarify that the authority to regulate poles is reserved to the Kentucky Public Service Commission and the Federal Communications Commission. Louisville’s Metro Council passed the ordinance, allowing for high-speed Internet providers such as Google Fiber to install the equipment on the AT&T poles.

An AT&T spokesman, Joe Burgan, told *LEX18.com* AT&T is OK with the attachment, but only if they enter into AT&T’s licensing agreement. Mayor Greg Fischer told the news source that the city will “vigorously defend the lawsuit …. gigabit fiber is too important to our city’s future.”

## International

### Fitch Rates Potential Russian Tower Sale As Neutral to Positive



The impact from the potential sale of tower infrastructure by Russian mobile companies on key leverage metrics would be neutral to positive under the agency's assumptions on sale price and rent expense, according to a report by Fitch Ratings. The impact on LLC T2 RTK Holding's (B+/Stable) metrics will be more pronounced due to a smaller absolute size of its debt relative to the Big three mobile operators - PJSC Mobile TeleSystems (BB+/Stable), PJSC MegaFon (BB+/Stable) and Vimpelcom Ltd (BB+/Stable).

According to Reuters, recent media reports in Russia and comments from the companies suggest that some Russian mobile operators may sell their tower infrastructure. Vimpelcom is officially considering the opportunity to sell its mobile towers and is negotiating the terms of a potential deal with several bidders. MegaFon and T2 RTK Holding (T2 RTK) are also considering the spin-off of their tower businesses while only Mobile TeleSystems (MTS) has publicly stated that it does not have any plans to sell its towers, Reuters reported.

### Numerous Offers Being Made for Saudi-Owned Mobily

Mobily is reportedly reviewing a number of offers for its telecom towers. The Saudi Arabian operator has received "certain indicative offers" for its towers business, company CEO Ahmad Farroukh said, in an interview with *Bloomberg*.

Farroukh said that while Mobily is not looking for a deal at any cost, it is keen to sell its towers since they are non-core and complex to manage, with issues including site visits and rent negotiations, *www.totaltel.com* reported. Mobily's 10,000 mobile towers could raise as much as $2 billion. Its sources have tipped Digital Bridge Holdings as one of the frontrunners to acquire the business.

Transferring the towers to a new joint venture with rival players – as was mooted by Saudi Arabian financial news site Maaal in February – would also require regulatory consent, he said. The telco's rivals, Zain and Saudi Telecom, are thinking along the same lines as Mobily, Farroukh said.

According to *Bloomberg*, Zain is also weighing up its options, which include a sale-and-leaseback deal or a joint venture.

## Small Cells

### IHS Technology Report: Small Cell Market to Rise Above $2 billion mark by 2019

By Benjamin Horvath

In 2015, the small cell market was worth $1.2 billion, a figure representative of an already sizable market within the wireless industry. However, this market is expected to grow even more sizable by decade's end. According to recent report released by IHS Technology, the small cell market is estimated to exceed $2 billion in global revenue by 2019.

The main catalysts of small cell growth include increased deployments in remote areas where cell coverage is sometimes elusive, as well as increased deployment of small cells by Enterprises. Indeed, according to a recent study conducted by Nemertes that included responses from over 500 business and IT executives, sixty-percent of companies said they will deploy small cell technology by year's end. This is a trend echoed by the IHS report, which estimated indoor small cell shipments to surpass outdoor units by 2016. Continue Reading

### ABI Research: Deployment of Over 1M Sub-6 GHz Backhaul by 2020

As carriers continue to densify their networks, especially in highly populated urban areas, the backhaul market is expected be completely transformed. In a recent study conducted by ABI Research, a company that specializes in technology research, it estimated that more than one million sub- 6GHz licensed backhaul links will be deployed by 2020.

ABI also identified sub-6 GHz links as the fastest growing segment in the backhaul market. The study found that sub-6 GHz links could overtake microwave and millimeter waves for the backhaul market's largest share by 2020. In total, sub-6GHz links and millimeter waves are estimated to comprise nearly 57% of all backhaul revenue in 2020.

"Ultimately, operators' network densification plans continue to grow in order to support demands for higher capacity in metro locations and extend coverage in to the rural and remote areas," said Ahmed Ali, a Research Analyst at ABI, in an article published by *Market Watch*. "This accelerated growth will mandate higher capacity links, lower equipment cost, and easier network installation. The development will, in turn, drive further investments in the wireless backhaul market."

Click here to read more about ABI Research's recent findings on the backhaul market.

## Company Profile

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## Tower Shot

Climber shot from Denis Dima of an AT&T upgrade on a 200' monopole in Western Virginia.
We love the view from the top and the bottom! Email your tower shots.
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