



Inside Towers

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[Sprint/T-Mobile Merger Talk Heats Up, Consolidation Looms](#)



Rumors of a merger between two of the industry's largest carriers—T-Mobile and Sprint—have yet again begun to heat up, reports *Light Reading*.

The two flirted with an agreement in August 2014, a merger that would have been worth an estimated \$32 billion. Furthermore, T-Mobile CEO John Legere, when asked about potential mergers and partnerships in the past, has not ruled out the possibility.

Howard Mandel, President of Cleveland-based Peppertree Capital Management, said that carrier consolidation would be a negative in the short-term, especially for tower companies. Long term, however, it would not have a large impact on network deployment.

"Carrier consolidation would be disruptive in the near term. It would delay build plans while the consolidating entities attempt to understand their combined network. It would also stir the pot as the key network personnel at the consolidating carriers vie to retain their positions – and the various tower companies vie to retain relationships with the surviving carrier personnel," Mandel told *Inside Towers*. "In the long run, however, there will be the same number of subscribers using dramatically increasing amounts of data, so carrier consolidation is not likely to materially limit network deployment."

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When Unlimited Data Plans Collide: T-Mobile And Sprint Try To Top Each Other



Starting Friday, Sprint's "Unlimited Freedom" plan will give customers unlimited talk, text and high-speed data for \$60 for the first line, \$40 for the next, and \$30 for each additional up to 10 according to *CNN Money*.

Meanwhile, the new T-Mobile ONE plan -- which starts September 6 -- is similarly priced: \$70 a month for the first line, the second at \$50 and additional lines are only \$20, up to eight lines, *CNN Money* said.

Families of four will pay the same price of \$40 per line, regardless of the carrier although T-Mobile is giving customers stock in the company.

Industry analysts point out that none of the options are actually unlimited nor are they new. The plans will boost usage however T-Mobile has pointedly tried to position itself as the prominent data carrier while the others are merely voice vendors.

“This (network) was built for this kind of untethered usage,” T-Mobile CEO John Legere said during a media call this morning. “For at least two years this has been part of where we’re headed.”

FCC Auction Heads For Round Six

With over \$10 billion bid for the 600 MHz spectrum over the first three rounds in the forward auction, there’s still a long way to go before it can offset the reverse auction figure of \$88.4B.

It’s up to the FCC to say if the bids show ‘competitive prices’ and if they will be enough to cover the \$88 billion price needed to move broadcasters off the spectrum. They must also cover the auction costs totaling \$207 million and \$1.75 billion for the TV Broadcaster Repacking Fund.

If met, the forward auction will trigger the spectrum reserve and bidding ensues until winners are declared. A lower spectrum target will be set if the forward auction number is not met, which is very possible say analysts, and another reverse auction and forward auction will follow.

- [Current Results](#)
- [Stage 1 Status breakdown](#)

Auction Proceeds (as of 5:30 pm 8/17)

First Component	Target: \$15,896,290,987	\$10,587,551,000 (actual)
Second Component	Target: \$88,379,558,704	\$10,050,000,000 (estimated)

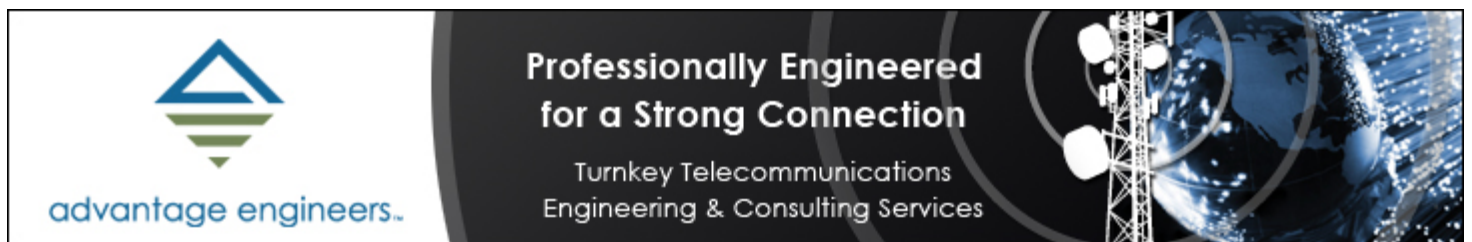
Reverse Auction

Current Round Bidding concluded Clearing Cost as of Stage 1 \$86,422,558,704

Forward Auction

Current Round Round 6 (begins today at 10 AM EST)

Auction Proceeds as of Round 5 \$10,587,551,000



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Will A Tower Safety Net Catch On? A Young Entrepreneur Hopes So
Trapeze artists have them, bridge workers



have them, window washers have them. Why not tower techs?

Joshua Deadrick, CEO and Founder of Vertical Tower Safety Netting had time on his hands while on job sites to think about how to make them safer places to work.

As a six-year veteran of the telecom industry he has climbed towers in all weather conditions (including being hit by lightning), and started to wonder why the



Joshua Deadrick

only real safety measure in play was a climber's body harness. "There was an obvious need for a secondary safety system," he said. "Ensuring that employees come home safely to their families every night should be the industry's top priority."

Motivation comes in many forms for Deadrick. On Thursday he heard from the mother of a climber who died in a fall in July of 2013, in South Dakota. "She said 'I love your idea and wish the tower my son was working on had it.' "

A netting secured around the tower....Deadrick has designed it for all types...can not only arrest human falls but falling objects as well. "I've been guilty of dropping a screwdriver," he said and cited a recent case where a Verizon worker on the ground was struck by a falling object from the tower and is now suing for \$70,000.

Deadrick has a patent pending for his tower netting system. Once he reaches his funding goal on [GoFundMe](#), he will have it drop-tested and certified by OSHA. "The netting itself already meets OSHA standards," he said. [Continue Reading](#)

Civil Liberties Groups Question Police Usage Of Cell Phone Interceptors



Several civil liberty groups filed a complaint earlier this week requesting that the FCC investigate the Baltimore Police Department's usage of cellphone tracking devices, commonly referred to as "stingrays," reports the *Washington Post*.

These groups argue that these devices, which emulate cell tower signals in order to track suspects using their cell phone location, subject innocent bystanders to warrantless searches and violations of privacy. Also, the groups charge that usage of the device disproportionately affects black citizens and that the device interferes with cell networks.

"The Baltimore Police Department uses cell phone interceptors at an astronomically higher rate than other law enforcement agencies, and mostly does so in black neighborhoods," said senior campaign manager at the Center for Media Justice Steven Renderos, one of the groups that joined the complaint issued to the FCC. "Unlicensed use of this technology decreases police accountability and increases the potential for harm against African Americans."

In September 2015, the Justice Department issued a new policy that requires federal law enforcement agencies to obtain a warrant to use such devices. This policy, however, does not apply to local or state agencies.

Tower Ticker

August 18, 2016 at Close

SYMBOL	TIME & PRICE		CHG & % CHG		DAY'S LOW & HIGH		VOLUME	52-WK HIGH	52-WK LOW
AMT	04:02pm EDT	114.35	-0.21	-0.18%	113.75	114.92	1,093,667	118.26	83.07
AMX	04:02pm EDT	12.19	-0.05	-0.41%	12.08	12.33	9,565,895	18.57	11.02
CCI	04:02pm EDT	94.30	-0.28	-0.30%	93.91	94.85	1,306,293	102.82	75.71
CTL	04:02pm EDT	29.13	-0.12	-0.41%	28.93	29.36	4,395,198	32.94	21.94
DY	04:00pm EDT	87.75	+2.20	+2.57%	85.43	88.57	5,497,710	98.45	47.1
ERIC	04:00pm EDT	7.39	+0.10	+1.37%	7.30	7.40	1,940,625	10.58	6.96
FTR	04:00pm EDT	4.7800	+0.0600	+1.27%	4.71	4.80	17,760,406	5.85	3.81
LVLT	04:02pm EDT	48.44	-0.08	-0.16%	47.95	48.51	1,892,323	57.59	40.86
S	04:02pm EDT	6.02	+0.01	+0.17%	5.95	6.10	10,132,212	6.35	2.18
SBAC	04:00pm EDT	114.71	+0.25	+0.22%	114.04	115.15	377,612	126.11	82.8
T	04:00pm EDT	41.40	-0.46	-1.10%	41.11	41.84	32,549,695	43.89	30.97
TMUS	04:00pm EDT	46.98	+0.60	+1.29%	46.13	47.03	2,962,681	48.11	33.23
VZ	04:03pm EDT	52.87	-0.30	-0.56%	52.52	53.06	10,886,047	56.95	38.06
ZAYO	04:00pm EDT	28.87	+0.24	+0.84%	28.34	28.95	1,469,713	29.76	19.59



Zoning & Moaning

Virginia

Citizens Fighting Against Verizon Tower Near School

Verizon wants to build on the grounds of a VA-based elementary school, but local residents are fighting to nix the proposed location. A public hearing between the Fairfax County Planning Commission (FCPS) and the residents near Crossfield Elementary School in Oak Hill has been set for September 28, regarding a proposed tower that would be disguised as a tree that would sit on the Reston/Oak Hill, VA line.

Reston Now reported that the 138-foot tower is the second proposed by Verizon and Milestone Communications in about three years, after the first proposal in 2013, was “postponed indefinitely.” Just as in 2013, there is “organized opposition to the construction,” with residents stating that there is no gap in coverage near the proposed location at the school. A petition filed by residents states that there are 82 active towers within a four-mile radius of the site, and “poor cell reception within the school and in nearby homes can be fixed with inexpensive signal boosters.” Residents also cite possible lowering of property values, aesthetics and possible health risks as reasons for asking for a different location.

Milestone, a local communications firm, collects rent from carriers on local towers and 40 percent, according to *Reston Now*, goes to FCPS. The companies pay the landowners to lease pole space, with schools receiving \$25,000 each time a tower is built on their grounds. An additional \$5,000 is made for the school from each carrier that leases tower space. FCPS officials told *Reston Now* that it has made more than \$4 million “over the last several years” based on the current arrangement.

Cell-ebration

Illinois

Major Network Expansion Announced For Chicagoland

Once complete, the development will connect multiple data centers and commercial buildings with fiber and fixed-wireless infrastructure. Windstream made the announcement August 16, targeting Chicago’s ever-growing business class searching for a fast, reliable network. Enterprise-class data, voice, network and cloud services will become readily available for Chicago-area businesses, and they will be able to connect with other markets across the country.

Nasdaq.com reported multiple sites will receive fiber network upgrades and connections. Major data center complexes and commercial buildings in downtown Chicago, as well as the Northwest suburbs of Downers Grove, Elk Grove Village, Lisle and Naperville were identified as sites for the infrastructure.

Windstream is already in the midst of network upgrades in other markets. Atlanta, Minneapolis, Cleveland and Philadelphia have all been identified for major network expansions in 2016.



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International

Brazil

2016 Rio Olympic Live Stream Broadcasts Reach Two Billion Minutes

While mobile online streaming has exploded, the average TV audience has



decreased nearly 20 percent since the 2012 London Olympics. This year marks the first time NBC has simultaneously broadcast the Olympics on television and online. Previously, the broadcast company only streamed certain matches to coincide with live programs.

To give an idea just how much has been streamed by online viewers, the first ten days of the 2016 Olympics surpassed the amount of time streamed by the last two Olympic Games combined – two billion minutes – in just the first ten days. This comes as no surprise to Gary Zenkel, the president of NBC Olympics. He has been a strong advocate of internet broadcasting, and foresaw how the internet and mobile devices could be leveraged as a mobile broadcast platform. In a recent Q&A session from Comcast, Zenkel admitted, “It still blows my mind that an iPhone or an Android device will allow access to 20 simultaneous streams during the course of a typical Olympic day.”

Zenkel also indicated online streaming is part of NBC’s goal to unlock as much content as possible for their audience. Estimates indicate once the Olympic Games are finished, online streaming could exceed three billion minutes.

FCC Recent Releases

FCC Recent Releases

Latest posting from the FCC 8/18/16

Tower Jobs

B+T – Tower Technician



[B+T](#) is looking to hire a Tower Technician responsible for completing on-site field work activities associated with each field service project. Click [here](#) for more information.

Ericsson Field Service Operations – Telecom Tower Technician I



[Ericsson](#) is currently looking for experienced Telecom Tower Technicians to join their organization in multiple cities across the United States. More information about the job is available [HERE](#).



This tower is located in Wrentham, MA. Photo contributed by CTI Towers, Inc.

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