



Inside Towers

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[Wanted: Builder To Erect 10 Towers in Louisa County, VA This Summer](#)



Officials in Virginia's Louisa County have agreed to construct 10 new towers as part of an effort to expand broadband Internet service. On April 8, the Louisa County Broadband Authority requested proposals from consultants willing to manage the project. The chosen consultant will oversee tower development and negotiate with Internet providers.

Bob Hardy, Louisa County information technology director, told the *Central Virginian*, "There are some firms that have done this for a number of communities. We felt this was the best way to get a company with multiple skill sets."

The authority has already used the services of Design Nine Inc. when it was developing a request for funding last year. Proposals will be accepted until May 10, and it will take approximately three weeks to select a proposal to oversee tower construction. The Louisa County Board of Supervisors will be spending \$1.1 million from its general fund to develop the towers. Construction is expected to begin by late summer.



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WiFi: The Big Dog Among Small Cells

"Wifi is not sitting still, it keeps on evolving," John Hoadley, VP of Products at Taqua, said last week while appearing on a panel discussing "Wireless WiFi Convergence" at CCA's Mobile Carriers Show in Nashville.




The panel, moderated by Howard Sears, VP/Sales and Business Development at Tecore Networks, also included Mitchell Jordan, RF Design Engineering of C-Spire and Subramanian Vasudevan, Director Advanced Performance at Wireless CTO of Nokia. They addressed the challenges of growing demand for data and weighed the benefits of combining WiFi, LTE and unlicensed spectrum usage to deliver the best customer experience. Both Jordan and Hoadley described Wi-fi as "the original small cell".

The panel hashed out the benefits and compared VoWiFi and VoLTE for which would provide a better coverage solution. C-Spire's Jordan offered "WiFi is a completely different market place than LTE. Can WiFi be monetized? How do we sell something that is generally perceived as free?"

From a vendor standpoint, Vasudevan reported "there are operators that have embraced WiFi and there are vendors who don't think that's the way to go. The spectrum is there for the taking... I see potential for all three (MuLTE, LTE-U and LA)." Since not all traffic is the same each option has its own benefits.

Zayo Expands Fiber-to-the-Tower Footprint in San Antonio, Austin

 Boulder, CO-based fiber specialist Zayo last week said it will expand by more than 700 miles its fiber-to-the-tower service footprint over more than 300 towers in two Texas markets, San Antonio and Austin.

The move was prompted by an ongoing interest from wireless service providers and a wide range of additional customers that Zayo believes demonstrates its "strength to leverage the fiber we are building to drive additional revenue. We continue to see strength in our mobile infrastructure solutions and plan to leverage our growing footprint to increase the yield and return on our investment over time," Jacob Fuller, vice president of Zayo's Mobile Infrastructure business said.

Zayo said with this expansion, its FTT network will include over 8,500 macro towers nationwide (including those under construction) and is evidence that the company "continues to play a critical role in addressing wireless service providers' needs for high-capacity communications infrastructure for macro towers and small cell nodes."



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ABI Research Study Says 5G Will Make \$247 Million by 2025



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New Photogrammetry ‘Drone’ Technology Helps Map Detailed Tower Models

A picture is worth a thousand words, and in this case, Tulsa, OK-based B+T Group wants it to help map and model cell phone towers. The structural engineering firm has created photogrammetry software that will create precise images from ground level via drones.

The company’s director of research and development, Jay Perkins, told *Tulsa World* not only is new technology trendy, but drones are “cool and gadgety.” Not only can the new drone perform 360 degree, three-dimensional photogrammetry, but B+T Group can turn the photos into drawings that serve needed two-dimensional value. The software, which was developed in 2015, is now ready to “create detailed, centimeter-accurate comprehensive tower and compound audit information.” [Continue Reading](#)



NAB Show Features Drone Technology, Aerial Content Creation



The NAB kicked off its six-day annual convention in Las Vegas Saturday that boasts being “the world’s largest annual conference and expo for professionals who create, manage, and distribute entertainment across all platforms.” But this year offers something a little different – drones. On Wednesday, the NAB Show will host the Super Session “[Drones: Opening New Vistas to Content](#).” Produced in partnership with the International Cinematographers Guild (ICG), the session will focus on how drone-based production differs from traditional methods; how drones can be used safely and reliably in light of FAA regulations; and key factors that need to be considered when arranging and executing drone shots.

NAB said the [Aerial Robotics and Drone Pavilion](#) will offer several sessions that highlight advances in aerial content creation and will also feature an enclosed “flying cage” which will show the latest drone technology in action. “[Heavy Lifter Drones](#)” will feature commercial network television directors of photography describing what type of drone technology they are currently using, “[Drones in Live Broadcast](#)” will discuss how best to use drones to augment live broadcasts, and “[Drones on the Big Screen](#)” will host some of Hollywood’s top aerial producers sharing behind-the-scenes stories of their favorite drone cinematography and the gear they used to capture it. Beginning today through Thursday, April 21, “[ASL Battle Drones/Drone Racing Demo](#)” will feature another side of drone technology – racing – with demonstrations of this remote-controlled sport. “[FAA Section 333 for Commercial Drones](#)” will explain the ins-and-outs of the most recent FAA regulations concerning the commercial use of drones.

Can’t make it to Las Vegas? You don’t have to miss out. Check out all the great content that will be streaming live

to nabshow.com. Tune in! *Times are PST

Atlantic Tower Services Initiates Internal Safety Campaign



It's a matter of safety first at Atlantic Tower Services. The full service wireless equipment maintenance repair and installation company based in Orlando, FL earlier this month launched "Target Zero," an internal safety campaign that promotes "an enhanced safety culture" inside the company that aims to reduce the potential of accidents, injuries and incidents.

"Through Target Zero, we are working to ensure our safety plan is proactive. This isn't about correcting anything we did wrong but taking steps to improve the system before anything needs a reaction; we're taking the program from good to great." said Ken Holder, Safety SME, ATS. [Continue Reading](#)

NWSA Job Task Analysis Survey Winners Announced



The National Wireless Safety Alliance recently concluded an industry-wide Job Task Analysis (JTA) survey of telecommunication tower technicians to ensure that NWSA's technician exams reflect today's work environment, regulations, and technology. The JTA survey is a required part of the process to ensure NWSA's programs achieve ANSI ISO 17024 accreditation, which is the premier accreditation for personnel certification organizations.

As a thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey, participants were entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 gift cards from GME Supply Co. Industry workers who completed the survey by no later than March 31, 2016, were entered in the GME Supply Co gift card prize drawing.

The following individuals won the gift prize drawing and will be awarded a \$100 gift card from GME Supply Co.: Jack Deeken, Zach Johnson, Sean Conn, Jonathan Turner and Justin Taylor.

"I would like to thank all of the individuals who participated in this important survey which is essential to helping the organization achieve ANSI accredited worker certification programs," stated NWSA Consultant Chuck Slagle

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Tower Ticker

April 15, 2016 at Close

SYMBOL	TIME & PRICE		CHG & % CHG		DAY'S LOW & HIGH		VOLUME
AMT	06:30pm EDT	105.78	+0.58	+0.55%	104.87	106.00	1,325,133
AMX	06:30pm EDT	15.35	-0.33	-2.10%	15.34	15.66	2,564,798
CCI	06:30pm EDT	87.28	+0.12	+0.14%	86.79	87.49	1,275,519
CTL	06:30pm EDT	32.26	+0.17	+0.53%	32.00	32.29	2,956,686
DY	06:30pm EDT	67.13	-0.63	-0.93%	66.40	67.52	588,796
ERIC	04:00pm EDT	9.63	-0.10	-1.03%	9.59	9.67	3,618,976
FTR	04:00pm EDT	5.41	+0.03	+0.56%	5.34	5.42	11,075,624
LVLTL	06:30pm EDT	53.76	+0.54	+1.01%	52.79	53.84	1,198,674
S	06:30pm EDT	3.59	+0.09	+2.57%	3.46	3.65	22,098,308
SBAC	04:00pm EDT	101.59	+0.73	+0.72%	100.61	101.85	427,316
T	06:30pm EDT	38.48	+0.06	+0.16%	38.40	38.60	15,781,172
TMUS	04:00pm EDT	39.29	+0.48	+1.24%	38.88	39.51	6,091,534
VZ	06:30pm EDT	51.35	-0.01	-0.02%	51.10	51.49	11,860,408
ZAYO	06:30pm EDT	24.52	-0.03	-0.12%	24.35	24.85	1,284,878



Amsterdam-Based Altice May Compete in U.S. Wireless Market

Altice is readying to buy Cablevision after its acquisition of Suddenlink, a sign that the European-based company could be heading to a top spot the U.S. wireless, cable and broadband market. But it won't be without some stiff competition, FierceCable reported.

First up was the "quiet" acquisition of Cablevision for \$17.7 billion and Suddenlink for \$9.1 billion. This gives Altice about 4.6 million customers in 20 states, which is behind Comcast and New Charter, but FierceCable says it is big enough that the three "would control a vast majority of the cable broadband market."

To be successful as a "big four" competitor, analysts said Altice would have to "prove out its promises of achieving tremendous cost savings," as well as show how it would cut costs, invest, streamline internally, and how it would make good on Cablevision's ability to compete in the market. [Continue Reading](#)

Zoning & Moaning

Planning Commission Hopes to Hide 75' Tower in Hidden Valley Park

verizon A California-based park is getting a new resident, a Verizon tower disguised as a pine tree. The southwest corner of Hidden Valley Park is the new home for the

75-foot tower, now that the Hanford Planning Commission voted 4-1 last week to approve the conditional use permit.

The tower's "branches" could reach up to three feet taller, which could violate city codes, reported *The Sentinel*. Concerns about the tower being in a park and surrounded by a barbed wire fence were addressed at the April 12, meeting. Now, Verizon needs to apply for the building permit, and the only thing standing in the way of that would be an appeal to the Hanford City Council within the next 10 days from the April 12, vote.



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Carrier Coverage

AT&T Backs CA Proposal to Cut Landlines, Force Wireless Service In Rural Areas



On Monday, April 11, the California state Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce heard a proposal that, if passed, would remove hard-wired landline phones in areas of the state where fiber optic cables are not available or too expensive to install.

The measure, AB 2395, is backed by AT&T and would force residents living in rural, mountain and desert regions to use wireless services. Residents throughout the state are concerned because emergency 911 calls are more difficult to trace when made from wireless phones, and suffer from many other limitations.

According to the *Moderate Voice*, Donna Tisdale, chair of the Boulevard Community Planning Group, said, "In addition, some of us living near the U.S./Mexico border do not have cell service due to rugged terrain and agreements with Mexico not to have cell towers too close to the border." In this case, if the measure passes, residents would be without wired and wireless services.

AT&T is supporting similar measures in other states, as it works to disconnect wired landlines to save money.

Small Cells

As Network Operators Deploy More Small Cells, Equipment Testing is Altered

By Benjamin Horvath

Anyone remotely familiar with the wireless industry can tell you that data usage has been skyrocketing in the past half decade. In the coming years, data traffic is estimated to grow by 50% annually, presenting a capacity challenge to industry carriers. A recent article in *Electronics Weekly* by Richard Wilson discusses this



capacity challenge and how small cells help meet those challenges.

“With mobile data traffic growing exponentially and showing no signs of slowing down, mobile network operators and network equipment manufacturers face an immediate challenge to provide alternative solutions for traffic on loading,” Wilson wrote. “Small cells....provide a solution for load balancing and offer different alternatives depending on the architecture selected for deployment.” “Small cell” is a term that refers to femtocells, DAS, picocells and WiFi technologies, each of which provides carriers an option to expand its network. Paired with coverage provided by pre-existing macro cells, carriers’ most commonly deployed infrastructure, small cells assist in supporting data traffic that cannot be handled by macro cells alone.

[Continue Reading](#)

Tower Tribe

Proteus Services Names Higgins VP, Business Development

Nash Higgins has joined Proteus Services, LLC as Vice President of Business Development. Higgins, who previously worked as an executive director with Verizon Wireless, has more than 20 years of industry experience and a passion for providing solutions to the wireless telecommunications business.

Proteus Services, LLC President Wanda Kielty said, “Nash has found solutions for new clients and new ways of promoting the array of services we offer. He brings a fresh approach to how we interact and provide services with clients.”

Proteus Services is a full turnkey wireless telecommunications services provider which offers site acquisition, installation and maintenance, construction, microfiber trenching, database, DAS and small cell technology services throughout the southeastern United States.

Company Profile

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Tower shot from John Bonilla in Knoxville, TN

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