



Inside Towers

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Comcast Contemplates Wireless Future



Wireless opportunities have prompted Comcast to form a new mobile unit, even as the company claims its wireline broadband business is expanding. The creation of the unit has prompted questions regarding the direction Comcast plans to go.

Since mobile carriers currently deliver Comcast content to subscribers, analysts are skeptical about how Comcast will benefit from adding a wireless component to its business model. In Q2, Comcast added 220,000 high-speed broadband internet subscribers. Marcién Jenckes, Comcast's executive vice president of consumer services, declares the business is just considering its options. *Multichannel News* points out he told a group at Nomura's 2016 Media, Telecom & Internet Conference, "At the moment, what we are doing is very carefully evaluating our options. We are understanding the market."

So far, Comcast has decided to use its Virtual Network Operator rights with Verizon. It has not indicated how it plans to take part in the broadcast incentive auctions, currently in progress.

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FCC Auction Results After Round Seven



[Current Results](#)

[Stage 1 Status breakdown](#)

Auction Proceeds (as of 8:30 pm 8/19)

First Component	Target: \$15,896,290,987	\$11,526,999,000 (actual)
Second Component	Target: \$88,379,558,704	\$10,960,000,000 (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 7 \$11,526,999,000

IoT: “The Internet Of Things” Explained (Finally!)

The Internet of Things (IoT) is being called many things—revolutionary, a disruptive force, a change of the status quo, a backbone on which our communications system is based—by *IndustryWeek*. The Global Standards Initiative on the Internet of Things, defined this thing we call IoT as “the infrastructure of the information society.”

With IoT being central to automation not only in the workplace, but in our daily lives, it is growing by leaps and bounds. IDC, a global marketing intelligence firm, predicts that IoT will grow at a compound annual growth rate of more than 19 percent through 2020, *IndustryWeek* reported. An IoT report by Technavio predicts a growth rate of more than 20 percent, while IT research firm Gartner said that IoT devices “will exceed 26 billion independent units installed by the year 2020.” DHL and Cisco released a report that put devices at 50 billion by 2020. [Continue](#)

[Reading](#)



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AT&T Plans To Repack Over 1,000 Television Stations



at&t

AT&T is planning to repackage television stations across the nation in light of the recent spectrum incentive auction, reports *TVnewscheck.com*. The plan, which has received positive reviews across the industry, breaks down the nation into regions instead of attempting to repack on a national scale.

“This is the first time I have seen a wireless company that gets it — one that understands what broadcasters are facing with the repack,” Jay Adrick, an RF consultant and former vice president with Harris Broadcast, told *TVnewscheck.com*.

AT&T submitted its proposal to the FCC earlier this month. The plan, which the company summarized in a recent slideshow, will attempt to clear 126 MHz of frequency and repack 1,026 UHF stations across the nation.

The plan divides the nation into four separate regions—West, Central, Midwest and East—with each of those regions divided into four sub-regions, except the East which is divided into three.

Sharing An Antenna Doesn't Mean Having To Give Up Control

We've always been taught to share, and a white paper released by [COMMSCOPE](#) addresses ways that sharing or co-locating on an antenna doesn't mean networks are giving up control.

Mohamed Nadder Hamdy, Ph.D., the author of the paper said that “network sharing is once again a common topic of conversation as operators look for more cost-effective methods to transition to 4G services including long-term evolution (LTE).” The main driver, of course, is cost savings. More equipment means active and passive sharing options, including via the base station antenna. Shared antennas, according to Hamdy, can interact with different RF

elements—TMAs, SBTs, radios and RRHs—presenting a variety of technical challenges and tradeoffs. [Continue Reading](#)



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Grants Given To Public Safety Entities Relocating From Band 14 Spectrum



Public safety entities who have relocated their radios and systems from Band 14 in advance of the deployment and operation of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) were given grants provided by The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). Eight grants were announced for its Band 14 Incumbent Spectrum Relocation Grant Program (Band 14 Program). The recipients were:

- Illinois Emergency Management Agency –\$14,025,249.50
- Virginia State Police – \$7,304,459.00
- Arkansas State Police - \$3,830,939.89
- Massachusetts State Police –\$1,554,610.00
- Department of Defense, Honolulu County, Hawaii –\$44,533.38
- Marshall Fire Department, Michigan –\$23,500.00
- Stamford Fire Department, Connecticut –\$15,870.00
- Post Falls Police Department Idaho –\$13,470.00

[Continue Reading](#)

Tower Ticker

August 19, 2016 at Close

SYMBOL	TIME & PRICE		CHG & % CHG		DAY'S LOW & HIGH		VOLUME	52-WK HIGH	52-WK LOW
AMT	04:00pm EDT	113.61	-0.74	-0.65%	113.25	114.57	2,515,228	118.26	83.07
AMX	04:00pm EDT	12.11	-0.08	-0.66%	12.03	12.19	5,142,342	18.57	11.02
CCI	04:02pm EDT	93.37	-0.93	-0.99%	92.69	94.15	1,903,201	102.82	75.71
CTL	04:02pm EDT	28.84	-0.29	-1.00%	28.68	29.14	4,629,169	32.94	21.94
DY	04:01pm EDT	87.94	+0.19	+0.22%	87.50	89.05	1,113,104	98.45	47.1
ERIC	04:00pm EDT	7.38	-0.01	-0.14%	7.31	7.39	1,340,062	10.58	6.96
FTR	04:00pm EDT	4.69	-0.09	-1.88%	4.66	4.81	16,093,785	5.85	3.81
LVL	04:02pm EDT	48.54	+0.10	+0.21%	47.58	48.59	2,012,297	57.59	40.86
S	04:01pm EDT	5.93	-0.09	-1.50%	5.85	6.04	14,090,484	6.35	2.18
SBAC	04:00pm EDT	113.21	-1.50	-1.31%	112.65	114.24	499,246	123.85	82.8
T	04:00pm EDT	41.01	-0.39	-0.94%	40.69	41.25	28,946,347	43.89	30.97
TMUS	04:00pm EDT	46.27	-0.71	-1.51%	46.06	46.80	1,518,053	48.11	33.23
VZ	04:02pm EDT	52.45	-0.42	-0.79%	52.16	52.91	11,735,797	56.95	38.06
ZAYO	04:02pm EDT	28.80	-0.07	-0.24%	28.52	28.83	1,610,821	29.76	19.59



Zoning & Moaning

California

Verizon "Pine Tree" Proposal Needles Santa Maria Locals

Verizon wants to build a disguised pine tree tower in Santa Maria's Rotary Centennial Park, but residents are ready for battle. According to the *Santa Maria Times*, the Wednesday, August 17, planning commission meeting was so "emotionally charged," that the commission has continued the request.

The issue hits close to home for one commissioner, Gayle Pratt, who lives 1,000 feet from the proposed location. According to law, if she lived 500 feet away, she wouldn't have even been able to be a part of the discussion, which included other residents concerned with the city leasing public space to a private company, according to the *Times*. Additionally, about 10 residents voiced concerns at the meeting over possible safety and RF concerns, aesthetics, a "sacred" area being tainted and a three-minute time limit per person at the podium during the public forum. The *Times* reported that some "made frequent outbursts during the proceedings." [Continue Reading](#)

Pennsylvania

Montgomery County Has 29 Of The 30 Towers It Needs For System

Montgomery County has spent \$36 million over the past few years to build an effective emergency communications network that was designed for 30 towers. So far 29 towers have been built to serve the county's needs but there's a hole in the system covering posh Upper Merion. Construction of a 180-foot tower would significantly improve the

ability of county dispatchers to communicate with emergency personnel like firefighters and police, county officials told *NBC10.com* in Philadelphia.

"More towers are needed to increase coverage and increased capacity is needed because the system gets bogged by the volume of use during major events," according to a [county report](#) on the project. Without the thirtieth tower, parts of Upper Merion, Bridgeport, West Conshohocken and Lower Merion could have spotty coverage within the emergency dispatch system, County Solicitor Josh Stein said. [Continue Reading](#)



Cell-ebration

AT&T Tries Forming Industry-Wide Team To Define Future 5G Standard



AT&T is attempting to form an industry-wide team of mobile operators and equipment vendors to collaborate in developing the working standard for 5G technology, reports *pcworld.com*. The move is seen as an attempt to limit resources devoted to technologies that fail to meet the future 5G standard.

A number of companies have been rumored as potential members of this team, including equipment vendors Ericsson, Nokia, Huawei Technologies, Qualcomm Technologies, Intel, Samsung, and LG. The potential team also includes large carriers like China Mobile, Deutsche Telekom, KDDI, NTT DoCoMo, Telstra and Vodafone.

Analysts say carrier alignment will help quicken the deployment of 5G. Although 2020 is often cited as the starting date for commercial use of the technology, it still may not deploy until years later.

"Interim and fragmented pre-standard specifications can distract from the ultimate goal," said Tom Keathley, AT&T's senior vice president for wireless architecture and design, said in a recent press release. "Linking trials to the standards process is the fastest path to large-scale global 5G deployment."

FCC Recent Releases



Latest posting from the FCC 8/18/16

Tower Jobs

Ericsson Field Service Operations – Telecom Tower Technician I



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[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](#).

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.

Tower Shot

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Tower in Invergarry Scotland, contributed by Kieran Sneddon

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