



Inside Towers

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[DTC Fires Back At T-Mobile on TV Repack Assessment](#)



It took a month but Digital Tech Consulting is disputing T-Mobile's February 17, claim to the FCC that DTC's study of the agency's upcoming spectrum incentive auction and the challenges for the TV and tower industries "reflects a number of flawed assumptions and conclusions," as the carrier claimed. In a March 17, letter to the FCC, DTC President Myra Moore said, "First: T-Mobile erroneously assumes that antennas identified as 'broadband' are capable of transmitting on all contiguous channels within all or a portion of the UHF band without modification. This is inaccurate, and reflects T-Mobile's failure to research the capabilities of these antennas. In fact, most of these antennas will need significant alterations, which cannot be performed while the antennas remain on towers, to operate on new channels. As a result, T-Mobile meaningfully underestimates the scope of antenna removal and installation work the transition will require."

"Second, T-Mobile overstates the availability of critical resources, including tower crews with the equipment and experience qualifying them to perform broadcast antenna installation and removal work. T-Mobile claims to have identified 41 qualified tower crews capable of performing this work. In fact, based on our interviews with the additional companies T-Mobile identified, some of these companies have not performed broadcast work in more than a decade, some lack necessary specialized rigging equipment, and some specialize in radio, microwave and cellular antenna installations. Many broadcasters have never heard of some of these additional companies, and will not trust them to perform hazardous work on their critical facilities. [Continue Reading](#)



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[Maryland Legislature Considers Stingray Technology](#)



State, federal and municipal governing bodies all over the country have been examining cell site simulators or "Stingray" technology to determine whether it should be legal, illegal, and what type of regulation should be passed to keep a balance of privacy and law enforcement. In Annapolis, Maryland lawmakers are learning how the technology is used by law enforcement in various parts of the state, including Montgomery County and Baltimore City. During a state House Judiciary Committee, law

enforcement officials revealed the state police tracked phones 50 times last year using the device while it's been used more frequently in the City of Baltimore, according to the *Montgomery County Sentinel*. The extent of its use in Montgomery County did not come up at the hearing, and Montgomery County Police Chief Tom Manger said he did not want to comment on the bill because he had not read it. [Continue Reading](#)

Towers Underground, A New Twist on 4G LTE Networks



Swisscom and Ericsson have partnered together in Berne, Switzerland, to install 4G LTE data terminals in an underground vault to expand network capacity. Deemed the world's first use of underground space for wireless coverage, Swiss authorities approved installations at 250 other locations in the country.

Cities Today reports the use of underground sites that have fiber-optic cables and power lines pre-installed, can lower cost by up to 50 percent for the two organizations.

Hugo Lehmann, Head of Mobile Access and Innovation, Swisscom, explained the underground installations are vital for historic areas, and will be a boon for Swisscom subscribers. He said, "Swisscom customers will have the benefit of a good performing network, in terms of capacity and where they need it, and also the benefit is for the cities because the solution can be very well integrated into city centers. Also for historic city centers it is very important as the visual impact is quite small."

Marcus Bergagård, Small Cell Manhole Project Manager, Swisscom, said the underground small cells are a creative solution for meeting increased data demands. According to Bergagård, "It's a practical solution because it is small and can be quickly implemented into the existing network that we have today."



Hastings, MI, Sprint Reach Water Tower Agreement

The City of Hastings and Sprint have come to a mutual agreement that will keep the wireless giant's equipment on the north water tower. The city council approved the agreement, which started on March 1, 2016, at its March 14, meeting.

The *Hastings Banner* reported the agreement would be for an initial five years, until 2021, with four automatic five-year renewals in place that could go until 2041. If either party wishes to not automatically renew, they must provide the other party with a written notice 180 days before the next renewal date that it intends to terminate. Sprint will pay the city a one-time payment of \$5,000, which City Manager Jeff Mansfield said it would be a "significant source of income for the city." Additionally, Sprint will pay a lease fee of \$2,341.23 per month to have its equipment on the tower. After each year, that fee will increase by four percent.

Maine Proposal Would Keep Towers 1,500' From Schools

In Blue Hill, ME, the legality of a proposed amendment to the Blue Hill Telecommunications Tower Ordinance was questioned at the March 11, selectmen's meeting. The amendment is a result of a citizens' petition and would force

cell towers to be located at least 1,500 feet from any school or childcare center at the time of application.

According to the *Weekly Packet*, the amendment would not affect a U.S. Cellular application approved last year that is currently involved in legal action. However, the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 gives local government authority over where cell towers are placed, as long as the action does not prohibit personal wireless service, and regulation based on the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions does not extend past FCC guidelines.

The amendment makes no reference to radio frequency emissions, although it does restrict the placement of towers. The selectmen believe the town may have to defend the ordinance if the FCC decides it is too restrictive.

Tower Work Is Hard Work, Sometimes Frustrating Work, But...



From the Ozark County (MO) Times, the Sheriff's report from March 7-13, offers this snippet of information: "7:06 p.m. - Caller on Highway 160 said a man is behind her red barn screaming and yelling obscenities. Checked OK. Cell tower workers were in the area."



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Tower Ticker

March 18, 2016 at Close

SYMBOL	TIME & PRICE		CHG & % CHG		DAY'S LOW & HIGH		VOLUME
AMT	04:02pm EDT	100.51	-1.24	-1.22%	100.15	102.20	3,571,634
AMX	04:00pm EDT	14.99	-0.20	-1.32%	14.91	15.58	5,077,408
CCI	04:03pm EDT	86.42	+0.44	+0.51%	85.89	86.79	3,649,214
CTL	04:02pm EDT	31.70	+0.40	+1.28%	31.33	31.73	7,913,671
DY	04:02pm EDT	62.79	+2.01	+3.31%	60.85	63.06	1,119,277
ERIC	04:00pm EDT	9.82	+0.14	+1.45%	9.66	9.85	2,995,080
FTR	04:00pm EDT	5.28	-0.01	-0.19%	5.25	5.36	17,264,554
LVLT	04:01pm EDT	52.66	+0.13	+0.25%	52.37	53.34	3,092,185
S	04:00pm EDT	3.26	-0.14	-4.12%	3.26	3.48	24,735,918
SBAC	04:00pm EDT	99.17	-0.14	-0.14%	98.22	100.75	1,176,365
T	04:00pm EDT	38.56	-0.56	-1.43%	38.56	39.26	40,959,220
TMUS	04:00pm EDT	36.93	-0.23	-0.62%	36.75	37.62	5,394,379
VZ	04:03pm EDT	53.24	-0.39	-0.73%	53.24	53.85	23,239,265
ZAYO	04:02pm EDT	24.45	-0.16	-0.65%	24.44	24.86	4,666,697



SBA Communications' Ciarfella Exercises Stock Options



According to an SEC Form 4 filed by SBA Communications, March R. Ciarfella, the EVP/Operations on March 15, exercised a stock option to buy 3,950 SBAC Class A common shares at \$47.25 and sold at the market rate that day for \$95.50, a solid pick up of \$189,521.

Cell-ebration

Verizon Tower OK'd By Little League Field

The Palo Alto, CA, City Council approved a proposal from the Palo Alto Little League to allow a replacement of a 60-foot cellular-enhanced light pole by a community field. However, a group of residents weren't ready to play ball.

Not individually identified, the residents sued under the names Clear Light Ventures Inc. and Parents & Neighbors Against Little League Cell Tower. They cited potential health hazards and neighborhood character disruption as reasons for their suit, according to *San Jose Mercury News*. Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Socrates Peter Manoukian sided with Verizon and the Little League, and ruled to allow the replacement cellular-enhanced light pole, which adds 5-feet to the original pole. [Continue Reading](#)

International

Zain Could Sell Its Towers in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia

Zain Group is assessing a shortlist of potential bidders for its 1,900 towers in Kuwait and 7,000 towers in Saudi Arabia, according to Reuters. Once sources estimates there are half-a-dozen potential buyers from the U.S., Europe, Africa and the Middle East. If a deal blossoms Zain will likely use the proceeds to pay down some debt. Several tower companies have expressed an interest, and Zain Group is assessing the offers to create a shortlist of serious potential buyers. Another source said about half a dozen potential buyers had been identified for Zain Saudi's towers, including companies from the US, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Citigroup is advising Zain Group. Zain Saudi Arabia could expect to raise around \$500 million from selling its towers; little new tower infrastructure is required in Saudi where there is a high penetration of cellular use and 4G is readily available, which significantly lowers the potential for tower company growth.

India Proposes Tighter Tower Regs, New Fees To 'Regularize' Outlaw Towers

The "Improvements Committee," of Mumbai's municipal corporation or the BMC (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) on March 16, proposed banning towers on open spaces and levying one-time fees on illegal towers for the to "regularize" them, reported *IndiaExpress.com*.

The BMC's decision to allow a particular telecom company to install 4G mobile towers in the city's open spaces had drawn flak from people, including activists, the news site reported. The BMC had then identified at least 3,025 illegal towers and launched an inquiry. The matter is now pending in the Bombay High Court as part of a public interest litigation filed by citizen groups.

The BMC will be charging a registration fee of Rs 50,000 or about \$754 to get each illegal tower in compliance and will bar all towers from playgrounds, near hospitals and schools. Chairman of the improvements committee, Prakash Gangadhare, said, "The illegal mobile towers will keep coming up no matter what. But at least with this proposal, the BMC's revenues will be improved."

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New Products

Gin Pole Finish Roughs Up Surface, Safer, Longer Lasting

Struggling to get a grip? Zinc Spray Metallizing could be the answer. It's done by melting zinc powder or zinc wire in a flame or electric arc and projecting the liquid zinc droplets by air or gas onto the surface to be coated. 99.5% pure or better zinc and the corrosion resistance of the wire or powder is approximately equal, said Michael Landa, CEO of Landa Mobile Systems @ LLC in Fayetteville, AK. He said the new gin pole finish gives the operator a rough surface vs. a smooth finish while providing a much safer environment while handling gin poles.

It'll take surface preparation. "The surface to be reconditioned shall be blast cleaned to SSPC-SP5/NACE No.1 near white metal and must be free of oil, grease, weld flux residue, weld spatter and corrosion products." The blast cleaning must extend into the surrounding, undamaged, galvanized coating."

Details? Call Landa Mobile Systems, 360-474-8991, sales@landamobilesystems.com

Tower Calendar

IWCE Expo Floor to Feature Innovative Products from Exhibitors

March 21-25, 2016, in Las Vegas

International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE), the premier annual event for communications technology professionals, is previewing cutting-edge products that will be on display at IWCE 2016, scheduled for March 21-25, 2016, in Las Vegas. The event will feature an Exhibit Hall with more than 400 exhibitors showcasing the latest technology and trends in the industry. Among the exhibitors are David Clark Co., Inc., pieker acoustic, Inc., 911 Circuits, Comba Telecom Inc. Codan Radio Communications Division and Quanshun Communication Technology Co., Ltd. Click [here](#) to see more of the exhibitors that will be featured.

To register to attend IWCE, visit iwceexpo.com and use code SVE9 to get 20% off IWCE conference packages, 10% of ETA Training and a free exhibit hall pass.

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