



# Inside Towers

Thursday, August 17, 2017

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## [Verizon to Take on AT&T's FirstNet and Build Public Safety Network](#)

**verizon** ✓ Verizon is not going quietly into the night and ceding ground to AT&T for public safety communications. In fact, it plans to go head-to-head with AT&T for that business. Verizon announced it will enhance its 4G LTE network and build a separate public safety communications network for first responders in 2018.

In response to requests from public safety agencies, Verizon said its network manages and directs communications functions, like network access and call routing. The public safety core will operate separately from Verizon's commercial core.

Verizon will provide its public safety customers with priority access to the network, including preemption, when necessary and at no charge, beginning this year. AT&T won the FirstNet contract to build and operate the nationwide broadband first responder network. The carrier has said first responders get priority or "presumptive" access now to its commercial network, and then on FirstNet when that capability is enabled by year-end. [Continue Reading](#)



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## [What Does AT&T Say About Verizon's Plan?](#)

AT&T responded to Verizon's announcement that it plans to build its own public safety network. "What we're offering to public safety through our private-public partnership will be fundamentally different from anything they've previously been offered in the marketplace," an AT&T spokesman told *IWCE's Urgent Communications*.

"FirstNet is bringing public safety a superior network and ecosystem with specialized features, including increased coverage and capacity along with priority and preemption, so first responder subscribers can be confident that the network will be there when and where they need it—24/7/365, like their mission."

## [Telecoms Demand More Privacy for Subscribers](#)

As the U.S. Supreme Court navigates a significant dispute concerning data gathering by the police, tech companies

are joining Verizon Communications Inc to push for more user privacy. Apple, Facebook, Twitter, Snap, and Google were among the companies behind a 44-page brief filed with the court on August 14, says *Reuters*. The brief argued for more protections against government officials accessing individuals' personal cell phone data. Without a warrant, accessing such data could amount to unreasonable search and seizure under the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The case stems from an appeal by Timothy Carpenter, who was convicted of armed robberies after his location was identified from cell site information attained by his wireless carrier. Nathan Freed Wessler, Carpenter's attorney, stated Verizon's involvement in the case is important, as it signified a "robust defense of their customers' privacy rights in the digital age." Like other carriers, Verizon gathers cell site information that can be used in criminal cases. According to the brief, the companies are requesting the court to confirm that government intrusion should not be the result of using digital technologies. The U.S. Department of Justice is still defending current law enforcement procedures.

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 **Tower Ticker**

August 16, 2017 at Close

| Symbol | Price  | Change | % Change | Low    | Volume  | High   | 52 Wk High | 52 Wk Low |
|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|---------|--------|------------|-----------|
| AMT    | 141.08 | +1.39  | +1.00%   | 139.74 | 1.31M   | 141.13 | 140.93     | 99.72     |
| AMX    | 18.82  | +0.22  | +1.16%   | 18.54  | 3.30M   | 18.85  | 18.75      | 11.02     |
| CCI    | 103.84 | +0.77  | +0.76%   | 102.97 | 2.71M   | 105.05 | 105.05     | 79.38     |
| COMM   | 32.85  | +0.01  | +0.03%   | 32.68  | 2.26M   | 33.35  | 42.75      | 28.32     |
| CTL    | 20.90  | +0.36  | +1.75%   | 20.44  | 10.51M  | 21.27  | 33.45      | 20.441    |
| DY     | 82.34  | +0.78  | +0.96%   | 81.15  | 497.85k | 82.97  | 110.64     | 70.33     |
| ERIC   | 6.10   | 0.00   | 0.00%    | 6.05   | 2.36M   | 6.11   | 7.55       | 4.83      |
| FTR    | 14.35  | +0.01  | +0.07%   | 13.96  | 2.60M   | 14.52  | 73.05      | 13.13     |
| LVLT   | 55.16  | +0.50  | +0.91%   | 54.61  | 2.20M   | 55.69  | 56.74      | 54.61     |
| S      | 8.29   | -0.01  | -0.12%   | 8.23   | 4.06M   | 8.35   | 9.65       | 5.83      |
| SBAC   | 143.72 | +2.42  | +1.71%   | 141.58 | 1.12M   | 144.10 | 144.10     | 95.66     |
| T      | 38.22  | +0.06  | +0.16%   | 37.96  | 14.62M  | 38.34  | 43.03      | 35.81     |
| TMUS   | 64.28  | +0.40  | +0.63%   | 63.55  | 2.03M   | 64.47  | 68.88      | 44.35     |
| UNIT   | 19.51  | +0.88  | +4.72%   | 18.82  | 3.24M   | 19.58  | 32.73      | 18.14     |
| VZ     | 48.40  | -0.08  | -0.17%   | 48.22  | 9.29M   | 48.53  | 54.83      | 42.80     |
| ZAYO   | 33.81  | 0.00   | 0.00%    | 33.60  | 1.58M   | 34.05  | 35.65      | 27.74     |



## Done Deal: Verizon pays \$225M for WoW's Fiber in Chicago

[UPDATE](#) A deal reported in the August 3 issue of *Inside Towers* regarding Verizon and WideOpenWest (WoW), has closed at a reported \$225 million.

The purchase adds to Verizon's growing fiber reserves in the Chicago area in their efforts to densify their network. WoW will get a further \$50 million to complete the network build. Verizon said that the network, when completed in late 2018, will provide backhaul for 500 macrocell sites and 500 small cells, according to *Rethink Wireless*. The deal will go toward paying some of WoW's \$2.74 billion debt burden and will close early in 2018.



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## Zoning & Moaning

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### Agricultural Testing and Alternative Designs Make a Case for Tower

Verizon Wireless filed an application seeking a use variance and site plan approval to construct a 120-foot monopole, intended to sit in the center of a 50-foot by 50-foot equipment compound on 5.9-acres of residential property, reported *centraljersey.com*. The variance is necessary because the tower is not technically allowed in the Manalapan's Rural Agricultural zoning district.

During the Manalapan Zoning Board meeting last week, two new designs were proposed, in lieu of a monopole. The first design presented was a monopine and the second a concrete silo topped with a fiberglass dome which will house the antenna. Zoning board members did not express a design preference at the time of the meeting. There was much research into the viability of the location, based on the Rural Agricultural zoning rules. [Continue Reading](#)

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## FirstNet News

### Kansas Opt-In for "Triple Crown" of Public Safety Communications

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback decided to "opt-in" to the FirstNet nationwide public-safety broadband network deployment plan. That makes Kansas the 13th state to do so.

"This effort will bring welcome broadband service enhancements to many rural parts of our state, including tribal lands and those areas most recently affected by wildfires this spring," Brownback stated. In April, Kansas selected AT&T to provide its statewide ESInet, the network platform to enable the deployment of next-generation 911.

AT&T Kansas President Mike Scott called FirstNet a "game-changer" for Kansas' public-safety community. "With AT&T ESInet Service and Kansas' NextGen 911 network, Kansas will have the 'triple crown' of public safety communications systems all in one state."

## D.C. Download

## D.C. Subway Extends Wireless Service



Washington, D.C.'s subway is beefing up its wireless service. Specifically Metro, along with AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon Wireless, previously added wireless voice and data service to all subway stations. Now they've begun to extend service in the tunnels on the Blue, Orange and Silver lines. The additions extend underground wireless service to 3.7 miles of tunnels in each direction.

That means riders can now enjoy uninterrupted wireless access when traveling between Metro Center (where all the subway lines meet) and Stadium-Armory stations. The third underground segment debuting yesterday, Metro Center to Potomac Avenue, provides a seamless connection to the first segment launched in December 2016 between Potomac Ave and the Stadium-Armory tunnel portal.

In April, Metro and the carriers introduced service on the Red Line from Glenmont Station to the Silver Spring station tunnel portal. Metro and the wireless carriers hope to have wireless service extended to all tunnels by December 2020.

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The banner features the NATE logo on the left, the text 'ANSI/ASSE A10.48 Standard AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE' in the center, and the website 'www.natehome.com' at the bottom. On the right, there is an image of the standard document cover, which includes the ANSI logo and the text 'AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD'.

## Going Up

### Rural Virginia Town Eagerly Awaits Activation of Verizon Tower



Photo Courtesy of *Fauquier Now*

Residents eagerly waiting for better cellular coverage will still have to wait another 30 to 60 days before the site is activated. Construction is nearly completed on a 140-foot cell tower near Warrenton, VA at [5348 Casanova Road](#). *Fauquier Now* reported cell service in the tiny unincorporated community is nearly non-existent, and residents often complain they cannot use their cell phones even in their own homes. Calvert Crossland, which owns the site,

expects Verizon Wireless to add equipment to the tower in the next two months.

Up to four carriers can locate on the tower. Rick Gerhardt, chairman of the Cedar Run board of supervisors, said the tower will “provide some well-needed service to this area.” He was amazed the tower is being constructed so quickly. Work crews from Helpcomm Inc. spent around eight hours installing the three-piece monopole and burying 1,600 feet of conduit to hold fiber optic cable from Casanova Road to the tower. They will also install the Verizon antennas once they arrive on site, and reseed the areas disturbed by construction with grass.

## International

### Uruguay

## América Móvil and Telefónica Pay \$66M for More 4G Spectrum

A spectrum auction in Uruguay concluded with the only two bidders, América Móvil and Telefónica, winning additional 4G spectrum for a total of \$66.1 million, according to *Capacity Media*.

The regulator, Unidad Reguladora de Servicios de Comunicaciones (Ursec), held just three stages – but the bid prices did not change between the end of the fourth round in stage one and the conclusion of the auction, with the third round of stage three. All stages in the auction were held on August 14.

América Móvil, which operates as Claro, bid \$10.1 million for two blocks each of spectrum in the 700 MHz band; it bid an additional \$7.5 million for another two, in the 1.7/2.1 GHz band – a total of \$35.2 million, according to Ursec. Each block is for 2x5 MHz and the licences are for 20 years.

Telefónica, operating as Movistar, successfully won three blocks, all in the 700 MHz band, paying \$10 million for each of two and \$10.9 million for a third – a total of \$30.9 million. There were no bids for three further blocks in the 1.7/2.1 GHz band.



## 5G

## T-Mobile's First 600 MHz LTE Network Site is Operational



T-Mobile is wasting no time using the low-band spectrum; it paid nearly \$8 billion to obtain 1,525 licenses in the FCC's incentive auction. The carrier won 45 percent of all low-band spectrum sold, some 31 MHz nationwide on average. Two months after T-Mobile received its FCC licenses, the carrier is lighting up its first 600 MHz LTE network sites—fortifying its LTE network and laying the groundwork for 5G at the same time.

The carrier said it switched on its Cheyenne, Wyoming site using Nokia equipment. Starting in rural America and other markets where the spectrum is clear of broadcasters today, T-Mobile plans to quickly deploy the new spectrum — compressing what would normally be a two-year process from auction to consumer availability, into six months. To achieve the aggressive schedule, T-Mobile has been coordinating with infrastructure providers, chipset makers and device manufacturers. This year, additional 600 MHz sites are scheduled, including Wyoming, Northwest Oregon, West Texas, Southwest Kansas, the Oklahoma panhandle, Western North Dakota, Maine, Coastal North Carolina, Central Pennsylvania, Central Virginia and Eastern Washington. [Continue Reading](#)

## Tower Safety

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### [Michigan](#)

## [BASE Jumper Arrested After Launch From Tower...Not His First](#)

A 29-year-old Lower Michigan man was arrested Friday afternoon for trespassing upon key facilities and is in the Mackinac County Jail after county deputies say he was "BASE jumping" through various microwave towers in Upper Michigan, according to *WLUC-TV*.

According to a report from *WPBN-TV*, the man was arrested at a tower near [Gould City](#). The Mackinac County Sheriff's Office says deputies received a report about a person "BASE jumping" from the microwave relay towers. BASE is an acronym for Buildings, Antennas, Spans (bridges) and Earth (cliffs) -- all potential jumping venues.

Deputies were told the man from Troy was travelling through the area to various microwave and communication towers. It's unclear if he had successfully climbed any other towers, *WLUC-TV* reported. His name has not been released. Deputies are working with security agents from the owners of the facilities for tower inspection.



## Tower Trouble

### [Canada](#)

## [CN Tower Antenna Fire Cause is a Mystery](#)

A Toronto CN Tower caught fire in the early morning hours on Wednesday, affecting more than 30 television and FM radio signals, reported *CBC Radio Canada*.

About 30 firefighters were on the scene and according to Toronto Fire Platoon Chief Kevin Shaw, "It looks like a tar substance that's burning." The cause of the fire still isn't clear.

This antenna consists of 44 pieces and is over 334 feet high. This type of fire causes unique challenges for those fighting the blaze. "It's like being inside a silo. There's a ladder there that runs up the interior of the transmission tower, so



there's not a lot of room to work up there," Shaw said. As a safety precaution, crews de-energized the mast and shut off power to the antenna as firefighters were trying to put out the fire inside the tower. No injuries were reported.

## Broadcasting

### Telecom Associations Join Group to Stop Sinclair-Tribune Deal



COALITION TO SAVE LOCAL MEDIA

The Competitive Carriers Association and NTCA, the Rural Broadband Association, are part of a new group fighting Sinclair Broadcast Group's proposed \$3.9 billion purchase of Tribune Media. The 15-member alliance unveiled this week is called the [Coalition to Save Local Media](#).

If the deal goes through, Sinclair would own more than 200 television stations and the fact that it owns antenna manufacturer Dielectric gives it the market power to derail the repack schedule, CCA and NTCA have told the FCC. NTCA CEO Shirley Bloomfield tells *Politico* she fears for her small member companies and the possible cost to consumers.

The joint effort that includes a wide range of voices puts pressure on the FCC and Justice Department as they weigh whether the merger serves the public interest. Other group members are: the American Cable Association, Dish, Common Cause, Public Knowledge, Herring Networks, and the Computer & Communications Industry Association.

## Shelters & Enclosures



[Tower-Pro.com](#), *Inside Towers'* companion Buyer's Guide has over 3,500 listings in 130+ categories. Each month we will be featuring one of our primary categories. This month, we're highlighting Shelters and Enclosures.



Should your company be in one of these categories?

See if you're listed and if you only have a basic listing, find out why you should upgrade [here](#).

We will be randomly highlighting our enhanced listings in Inside Towers for added exposure.



[Email us](#) with questions or for assistance.

## Tower Calendar

[See All Calendar Events](#)



### TIA Lunch & Learn: Advancing Broadband Infrastructure for IoT & Smart Communities

September 27, 2017, 12:00 - 1:45 p.m., Washington, D.C.

The Internet of Things (IoT) holds the promise to transform nearly every aspect of modern business, and bring efficiencies to our everyday lives. This TIA lunch and learn will seek to explore policies that reduce burdens to mobile broadband infrastructure deployment, and how public-private sector partnerships and the highly anticipated federal infrastructure legislative package can spur investment in the foundational IoT technologies that will power smarter, safer and more connected communities. Lunch will be served.

#### Speakers:

- Brian Hendricks, Head of Policy and Government Relations, Nokia Americas Region
- Jeff Brueggeman, Vice President, Global Public Policy, AT&T
- Robin Colwell, Chief Counsel, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
- Steve Crout, Vice President Government Affairs, Qualcomm
- Bryan Tramont, Managing Partner, Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer, LLP (Moderator)
- Wesley Johnston, CEO, TIA (Opening Remarks)

\* More speakers to be announced. Click [here](#) to register.

## Top Tower Tweets





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