

Inside Towers

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[NAB to FCC: Wireless Companies Exaggerate Spectrum "Crisis"](#)



NAB, and many broadcast equipment suppliers and engineers, say the FCC's 39-month schedule for the television repack is too aggressive. The proposed schedule doesn't fully take into account logistical and technical challenges broadcasters and suppliers will face, says NAB in comments to the agency; the trade lobby urges the Commission to re-think the deadline.

On top of all this, wireless companies are inflating how urgently they need new spectrum and are dragging out the auction, according to NAB.

Many of the Commission's proposals for the television repack "are reasonable steps towards planning an efficient transition," notes NAB. However a software-driven approach to categorize and assign stations to different phases is "unlikely" to produce a workable and efficient plan in practice, according to the broadcast trade lobby.

NAB and other commenters, like American Tower and T-Mobile, urge the Commission to adopt a flexible transition plan that can be changed based on particular circumstances — and unforeseen circumstances. Block Communications, for example, told the FCC at least two stations are "located at sites that may require significant tower improvements" — including potentially the need to replace the towers or find new sites, according to NAB.

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[Indiana](#)

State Expected to Approve Agile Network Deal Today Under Heavy Opposition

[UPDATE](#) The state of Indiana's \$50 million, 25-year deal with Ohio-based company Agile Networks to manage the state's communications network is expected to be approved today. The Indiana Finance Authority's board of directors will have the final say according to [Watchdog.org](#), and pass along the contract to the Indiana Legislature's

budget committee for review.

The deal has come under criticism from Hoosier telecom companies, including the Indiana Broadband and Technology Association and Indiana Cable, who blasted the deal as “short-sighted” in a joint letter recently penned to Dan Huges, Director of the Indiana Finance Authority.

The letter, signed by Indiana Cable Executive Director Joni Hart and Indiana Broadband and Technology Association President John E. Koppin, criticizes the state’s lack of transparency during the agreement, the deal’s failure to ensure the expansion of rural internet access and its threat to a competitive marketplace for broadband companies in Indiana.

“For these reasons, the broadband industry in Indiana stands united in advising the IFA not to proceed with this agreement in its current form,” Hart and Koppin state in the letter. “We strongly encourage IFA to reconsider this decision to pit the state against private providers.” [Continue Reading](#)

It Was Tower Safety Week in the U.K., “Working Well With Towers,” Cheers!



[Pasma](#) is a trade association for the ‘mobile access tower industry’ in the United Kingdom. Think of it as a combination of NATE and WIA in the U.S. It stands for The Prefabricated Access Suppliers’ and Manufacturers’ Association, founded in 1974, representing the interests of its members in the U.K., South Africa, South East Asia and the Middle East. The association not only represents manufacturers and suppliers, it also “provides and oversees the industry standard training scheme and is a major publisher of safety-related knowledge, information and guidance.”

Five years ago, Pasma established [Tower Safety Week](#), which aims to contribute to reducing falls from heights and also to promote towers. This year’s event, “Working Well with Towers,” is happening now and ends on Friday, November 18. Goals of the week, according to Construction Safety, will promote height safety and aim to develop knowledge and skills in an industry that reported 26 percent of accidents in 2016 as a result of falling from height in the U.K. alone. [Continue Reading](#)



Major Wireless Items Pulled from FCC Meeting as GOP Gets Grip on Wheeler

The FCC won’t be voting on four items, mostly wireless-related, that the agency originally planned to at its open meeting today. Late yesterday came word the four items, including one on imposing rate caps for Business Data Services, had been pulled from the agenda.

The move comes as Republicans in both houses of Congress asked for Wheeler to hold off making decisions on controversial issues and to focus instead on matters that require action under the law and on finalizing the broadcast incentive auction. Wheeler heard from Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI)

and Communications and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), *Inside Towers* reported. Senate Commerce Committee Chair John Thune (R-S.D.) reinforced the request.

GOP Commissioners Michael O’Rielly and Ajit Pai agreed, with Pai calling for four major items on the November meeting agenda to be pulled. “Eight years ago, then-Senator John Rockefeller and then-Representative Henry Waxman called on the FCC not to consider ‘complex and controversial items that the new Congress and new Administration will have an interest in reviewing.’ Then-Chairman Kevin Martin abided by their request.”

In addition to the BDS item, other “controversial” items pulled from the agenda that remain on circulation concern Universal Service Reform and carriers’ roaming obligations over LTE. The one major media item on the agenda which was also pulled concerned how much video described programming should be made available to customers.

Persistent Telecom Launches "FirstNet" Demonstration in [Sedalia, Missouri](#)



FirstNet[®]

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) was created by Congress in 2012 to establish a nationwide broadband network for public safety. The Network was the final recommendation of the 9/11 Commission encouraging the interconnection of police officers, firefighters and EMS providers.

Persistent Telecom Inc. (PTI) has funded, designed and is building a FirstNet wireless broadband network in Sedalia, Missouri. PTI will provide dedicated smart phones and access to the private LTE network for Key Management Personnel (KMP), including first responders and government officials. The PTI network, according to a company statement, will create a secure communications bubble covering critical infrastructure for the city of Sedalia and the Missouri State Fairgrounds. [Continue Reading](#)

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Tower Ticker

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November 16, 2016 at Close

SYMBOL	TIME & PRICE		CHG & % CHG		DAY'S LOW & HIGH		VOLUME	52-WK HIGH	52-WK LOW
AMT	04:00pm EST	105.44	+1.95	+1.88%	103.06	105.68	2,763,695	118.26	83.07
AMX	04:00pm EST	11.82	+0.22	+1.90%	11.41	11.83	5,023,626	17.33	11.02
CCI	04:00pm EST	85.07	+2.28	+2.75%	82.93	85.26	4,619,371	102.82	75.71
CTL	04:00pm EST	24.53	-0.19	-0.77%	24.42	24.79	8,230,336	33.45	21.94
DY	04:00pm EST	89.52	-1.09	-1.20%	89.13	90.89	395,841	98.45	47.1
ERIC	04:00pm EST	5.1100	-0.0100	-0.20%	5.07	5.15	5,103,997	10.2	4.83
FTR	04:00pm EST	3.43	+0.13	+3.94%	3.28	3.47	24,093,918	5.85	3.1
LVLT	04:00pm EST	55.02	+0.14	+0.26%	54.52	55.08	1,639,911	57.59	41.73
S	04:00pm EST	7.69	-0.05	-0.65%	7.43	7.81	22,102,375	7.81	2.18
SBAC	04:00pm EST	99.24	+2.18	+2.25%	96.33	99.29	1,454,104	118.57	82.8
T	04:00pm EST	37.16	+0.39	+1.06%	36.86	37.23	19,044,128	43.89	33.01
TMUS	04:00pm EST	52.73	-0.73	-1.37%	52.13	52.91	4,133,090	53.91	33.23
VZ	04:00pm EST	47.93	+0.56	+1.18%	47.32	47.98	15,103,983	56.95	43.79
ZAYO	04:00pm EST	34.22	+1.36	+4.14%	32.69	34.66	4,057,006	34.66	19.59



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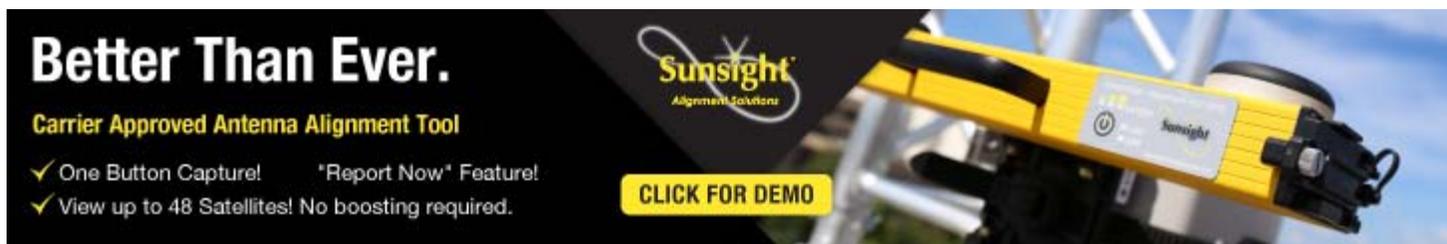
Lathrop Wants to Streamline Right-of-Way Zoning by Planning Ahead

The City of Lathrop is taking preemptive measures before carriers can start laying claims to their public city right-of-way, according to the *Manteca Bulletin*.

The City Council last week adopted an ordinance that will incorporate a master plan for telecom development authored by 5 Bars, LLC, an independent wireless consulting firm. The plan will help “streamline the city’s future when it comes to the location, placement, and possible revenue-generating aspects of the placement of wireless communication equipment on city towers and in city rights-of-way,” said the *Manteca Bulletin*. The development of the wireless master plan will cost the city nothing however 5 Bars would receive 35 percent of all proceeds that come from future placement or development of wireless tower sites.

Vice Mayor Steve Dresser questioned the agreement and why the city would give up a third of the revenue if carriers contacted the city directly. However, the city attorney reminded Dresser that contractually they are obligated

to refer all inquiries to 5 Bar. The ordinance is up for final approval at a future meeting.



International

[TowerXchange Interview: Tony Pretorius, COO, MIG](#)

Myanmar Infrastructure COO on Opportunities in [Myanmar](#) (aka Burma) for Towercos



Tony Pretorius

Tony Pretorius was formerly CTO with Helios Towers Africa and joined Myanmar Infrastructure Group (MIG) in January 2016. Recently SMI sold Myanmar Infrastructure Group for \$12.7mn to Hong Kong's Shining Star International. The industry veteran brings his years of experience in SSA to Myanmar, a country where a rollout that started with a lot of momentum and is now in a bit of a shakeout. Read on to learn about MIG's sell to Shining Star and the current state of the Myanmar tower industry.



TowerXchange: Thanks for taking time to connect Tony. You've been in Myanmar now since the beginning of 2016. How's it going over there?

Tony Pretorius, COO, MIG: It's interesting. The people are lovely here, though from a developmental point of view, there is still a long way to go. The dynamic is different from what I am used to.

TowerXchange: Can you expand on that a bit more?

Tony Pretorius, COO, MIG: Access to capital is a big challenge, purely because there isn't an investment banking or commercial banking history here yet. Great strides have been made over the last couple of years, but to raise debt finance locally is a challenge. Not impossible, but not as straightforward as in more established economies. To be able to leverage your infrastructure is not impossible, but not as easy as elsewhere.

Furthermore, the MNOs have also faced many challenges in meeting their licensing obligations, which naturally have had knock-on effects to their partners and vendors. Nonetheless, we have found them to be responsible partners in working with us. Again, these challenges are not insurmountable. [Continue Reading](#)



New Products

Tower Site Calendar's 16th Edition Goes to Press



Open the pages of the 2017 Tower Site Calendar and you'll see art-deco buildings at twilight, lush fields of corn, cloudscapes to dazzle the imagination, and beautiful skies in myriad shades of blue.

And the towers. TV, FM, AM directional and nondirectional and a beautiful Blaw-Knox.

These photos are the reason people buy the Scott [Fybus Tower Site Calendar](#) year after year.

"Engineers are notoriously underappreciated for the hard work they do," says Fybus, who has worked in radio and television news for more than two decades. "The calendar shows some recognition for their design and maintenance of the infrastructure that allows all of us to have easy access to radio, TV and cell phones." [Continue Reading](#)

Company Profile

Brought to you by



Site 'Acq' Company Attributes High Zoning Success Rate to Local Relationships

By Benjamin Horvath



Collective Solutions, LLC
Site Acquisition, Zoning and Permitting
www.collectivesolutions.com
(314) 989-9810

A good site acquisition company can prevent a lot of headaches for carriers and tower companies that can arise during the zoning process. [Collective Solutions](#), a site acquisition firm based in Valley Park, MO, helps prevent these headaches through its well-developed relationships with local governments and municipalities.

"You get such a reputation with them that they know coming in your proposal, whether it be a tower or rooftop, it's going to be hard to deny because we have such a thorough presentation," Russell Been, President & Cofounder of Collective Solutions, said.

Been started working in the industry in 1999. When U.S. Cellular launched in the St. Louis market in 2004, Been helped found Collective Solutions to complete 60 of the carrier's most difficult sites.

"They told us 'if you can get these sites done, then they're yours,'" he said. "That's been our specialty ever since," said Been, meaning the more difficult sites. [Continue Reading](#)

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If maximizing your company's exposure is one of your new year's resolutions, then it's time to join our Tower Tribe. Our growth in the last year has been exponential and we're ready for more.

Download our media kit [here](#) and allow us to create a customized proposal for you.

FCC Recent Releases

Recent Releases

Latest posting from the FCC 11/16/16

DAS/Small Cells



DAS and small cells are an incredibly hot industry topic and as a result, we've been building up our database of companies within the category. Confirm that your company is listed and if you have a basic listing, be sure to enhance it for extra exposure. [Click here](#) to find your company and [email us](#) if you have any questions.

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Site in Peachtree City, GA - Contributed by Richard Tumlin via [Instagram!](#)

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