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Inside Towers

Tuesday, April 4, 2017 Volume 5 | Issue 66

Top Story

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Missouri

St. Louis Ballpark Hits Home Run With Upgraded Wireless Equipment

As Opening Days occur all around the U.S., baseball fans, particularly those in St. Louis, will be experiencing better wireless coverage at the Cardinal's season opener this year. AT&T increased wireless capacity by 60 percent at the baseball club's Busch Stadium. *OzarksFirst.com* reported significant changes in the wireless coverage since Opening Day one year ago. John Sondag with AT&T Missouri says the improvements to the stadium's network will shorten the distance data will travel, making data transfers faster as games are played.

Sondag explained the demand for more capacity has increased drastically in Missouri over the past year. All of the state's major sports clubs have increased wireless infrastructure in their stadiums to cope with demand. Last year, 925 gigabytes of mobile data were consumed at Busch Stadium on AT&T's wireless network. Sondag says that is the equivalent of 2.6 million selfies. "We've spent about $1.6 billion over the last three years in our networks in Missouri just trying to keep up with this demand," he said.

A key feature of the new antennas at Busch Stadium is that they will only handle traffic while games are in progress. They were designed only to handle the data traffic of the three million people expected to attend games this season, and do not affect AT&T's network outside the stadium.

(See the article below regarding our new media partner Mobile Sports Report and the release of their latest Stadium Tech Report)

New York

County Says Mobilitie Started Two Cell Towers Without Board Approval

Washington County officials are upset with Mobilitie preemptively starting two “transport poles” located on county property, reports *The Post-Star*. One of the cell towers is located near the county fairgrounds, and the other in a county right-of-way.

According to a city supervisor, the company began drilling test holes at the fairground location, claiming it was for the utility company. At the other location, in a county’s right-of-way, Mobilitie applied for a county highway work permit to install another structure. But the county attorney has advised officials to deny the permit due to liability concerns.

“Anything that’s put in the right-of-way is on us,” Washington County attorney Roger Wickles told the *Post-Star*. “If someone puts decorative rocks on the right-of-way and someone hits it, they come to us and say, ‘You should’ve had it moved.’”

In response, Mobilitie told the *Post-Star* it followed all necessary procedures and requirements for building the towers. “Here, and elsewhere, Mobilitie is committed to working closely with local jurisdictions to obtain the appropriate permits and entitlements for our technology deployments,” the company said.

FCC Forms Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force

The FCC created the Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force to implement the upcoming Universal Service Fund-related auctions. The group will oversee the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF-II) and Mobility Fund II (MF-II) auctions.

The CAF-II auction will offer almost $2 billion to bidders to connect unserved and underserved locations over the next decade. The MF-II auction will make available more than $4.5 billion in new funding over ten years for expanding 4G LTE mobile coverage across rural America and in Tribal lands.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said the Task Force will help ensure that taxpayer funds are allocated efficiently for rural broadband deployment and that all Americans who want internet access are able to get it. He named four staffers on Monday to lead the group. Chelsea Fallon is the Task Force Director, while Michael Janson and Kirk Burgee serve as Deputy Directors. Thom Parisi will be the Chief of Staff. Continue Reading

Tower Site Sale Leaves Former KICE(AM) Dark

KICE(AM), Bend, OR is now silent after losing its tower site. Sunriver Broadcasting leased the station from Gross Communications’ Bend Radio Group which has sold the two towers and land, reports *The Bulletin*. The structures are now surrounded by residential development.

Sunriver owner Chuck Wilkinson is looking for a new tower site, but said an appropriate location is hard to find. “It has to be zoned correctly and economically feasible,” he said. The AM, authorized for 10,000 watts day/60 watts

night, signed on the air in 1960 as KGRL.

Before the shut-off last week, the AM aired announcements telling listeners they could hear the same Fox Sports format on co-owned KCOE(FM) on 94.9 FM Terrebonne, OR, which has now taken the KICE call letters. An *Inside Towers* check reveals no application for a Silent STA has yet been filed with the FCC.

House to Review Wireless Spectrum Allocation

The U.S. House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology plans to hold a hearing this Wednesday on "Facilitating the 21st Century Wireless Economy." Spectrum allocation policy will play an ever-increasing role in the economic growth of the United States and lawmakers want to get in front of that.

Lawmakers will discuss S.19, the Mobile Now Act, which seeks to ensure an adequate amount of spectrum is available to ensure the deployment and development of next generation 5G wireless broadband technology, as well as other spectrum issues. Specifically, the measure requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the FCC to make available at least 255 megahertz of federal and nonfederal spectrum below the frequency of 6000 megahertz for mobile and fixed wireless broadband use by December 31, 2020.

"Ensuring the efficient use of federally held spectrum will be a key function of the committee due to the important role of this resource in broadband deployment and promoting safe, secure communications networks," said Subcommittee Chair Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) in a notice about the event.

"Mobile technology plays a vital role in the future of our economy and we must ensure that spectrum demand is met with adequate supply. I'm looking forward to examining the federal government's continued role in spectrum policy," said Blackburn.

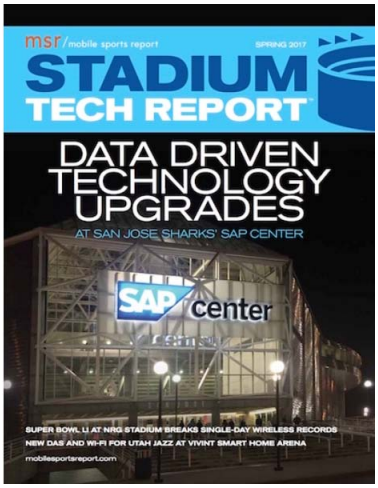
FCC Reverses Charter Communications Requirement Imposed by Wheeler

The Commission reversed a number of decisions rendered by the former administration's FCC. Most recently, the agency voted to reverse a requirement that Charter Communications extend broadband service to one million households that are already served by a competitor, reports *Reuters.*

In May 2016, Charter Communications agreed to the requirement as a condition for the acquisition of Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks. As part of the recently passed revised agreement, Charter must add service to two million additional potential subscribers in places without existing service.

Groups representing smaller cable companies cheered the recent decision as it means they will not have to compete with the large communications company, according to *Reuters*. The American Cable Association lobbied the FCC to reverse the 2016 requirement, and criticized the initial decision as "stunningly bad and inexplicable government policy" that would have "devastating effects on the smaller broadband providers." Continue Reading

Mobile Sports Report Publishes Its Spring 2017 Stadium Tech Report



Mobile Sports Report announced the release of its Spring 2017 issue of the *Stadium Tech Report* series, the only in-depth publication created specifically for the stadium technology professional and the stadium technology marketplace.

Profiles for this issue include a first-look visit to the San Jose Sharks' newly wired SAP Center, where a Cisco WiFi and StadiumVision network (deployed by *AmpThink*) has brought high-definition connectivity to the old familiar "Shark Tank." There is also a profile of new DAS and WiFi deployments at the Utah Jazz's Vivint Smart Home Arena, as well as a recap of the wireless record-setting day at Super Bowl LI at Houston's NRG Stadium. Plus, check out the first "Industry Voices" contribution, a great look at the history and progression of WiFi stadium networks from *AmpThink*'s Bill Anderson.

Join the first-ever "live interview" webinar, which will take place April 11 at 11 a.m. Pacific Time, 2 p.m. Eastern. All the details are here, so register now and listen in next week for more in-depth views from Vivint Smart Home Arena, and their technology partners, Boingo and SOLiD.

"We'd also like to welcome new readers from the *Inside Towers* community, who may have found their way here via our new partnership with the excellent publication *Inside Towers*. We'd also like to thank our growing list of repeat readers for your continued interest and support," says Editor-in-Chief, Paul Kapustka.

Mobile Sports Report also extends gratitude to its sponsors for this *Stadium Tech Report* issue including Mobilitie, Crown Castle, SOLiD, CommScope, Corning, Huber+Suhner, American Tower, and Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company. Their generous sponsorship makes it possible for *Mobile Sports Report* to offer this content free of charge. Be sure to download the latest issue here.

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Tower Ticker

April 3, 2017 at Close

Symbol	Price	Change	% Change	Day Low	Volume	Day High	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
AMT	121.24	-0.30	-0.25%	120.45	1.80M	121.89	121.89	99.72
AMX	14.34	+0.17	+1.20%	14.24	2.01M	14.44	15.95	11.02
CCI	94.27	-0.18	-0.19%	93.78	1.42M	95.46	102.82	79.38
COMM	41.15	-0.56	-1.34%	41.03	1.41M	41.94	42.34	26.16
CTL	23.59	+0.02	+0.11%	23.33	5.70M	23.66	33.45	22.33
DY	92.14	-0.81	-0.87%	90.84	414.30k	93.99	98.47	62.86
ERIC	6.55	-0.09	-1.36%	6.52	3.33M	6.70	10.20	4.83
FTR	2.05	-0.09	-4.21%	2.04	33.63M	2.17	5.75	1.92
LVLT	57.37	+0.15	+0.25%	56.92	1.55M	57.46	60.13	44.01
S	8.68	0.00	0.00%	8.52	11.38M	8.75	9.65	3.30
SBAC	119.55	-0.82	-0.68%	118.70	1.01M	120.40	120.51	95.66
T	41.57	+0.02	+0.05%	41.37	15.89M	41.77	43.89	36.10
TMUS	63.55	-1.04	-1.61%	62.97	3.71M	64.32	65.41	38.31
VZ	49.19	+0.44	+0.90%	48.59	12.39M	49.25	56.95	46.01
ZAYO	32.92	+0.02	+0.08%	32.57	1.81M	32.97	35.65	23.91

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Colorado

Public Hearing For Two Cellular Towers In Kiowa County

Viaero Wireless has petitioned the Board of County Commissioners of Kiowa County for approval of three conditional use permits for the proposed construction of two cellular/broadband towers near Sheridan Lake and a pole installation in Towner. A public hearing will be held before the Kiowa County Board of County Commissioners at the date, time and location specified below:

Date and time of hearing: May 11, 2017 at 10 a.m.

Location of hearing: Basement Meeting Room of the Kiowa County Courthouse, 1305 Goff Street, Eads, Colorado.

Purpose of hearing: The purpose of the hearing is to provide the public with an opportunity to comment upon the requested approval of three conditional use permits for the construction of two new cellular/broadband towers and one pole installation. Installations are planned for the following locations:

- 95' Broadband Tower North of Sheridan Lake at CR Z on a section of property less than 4 acres currently zoned as Agricultural. Legal Description: SW1/4SW1/4 of Section 8, Township 17 South, Range 44 West of the Sixth Principle Meridian
- 95' Broadband Tower South of Sheridan Lake at CR Z on a section of property less than 4 acres currently zoned as Agricultural. Legal Description: SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 27, Township 20 South, Range 43 West of the Sixth Principle Meridian
- 52" Utility Pole in Towner, Colorado near the alleyway between CR 73.25 and Main Street 236 feet south of Highway 96 currently zoned Residential. Legal Description: West 30' of the South 5' of Lot 25 and the West 30' of Lot 28, Block 1, Bennett Addition to the Town of Towner

The Kiowa County Commissioners stated, “Any person in support of, or objecting to, the proposed Conditional Use Permits may appear at such date, time, and place indicated above to address the County Commissioners, or may send written comments to the Kiowa County Board of County Commissioners prior to the hearing at P.O. Box 100, Eads, CO 81036.”

International

Bangladesh

Banglalink Wants to Sell Towers to Buy Spectrum

Banglalink wants to sell its towers to a third party as it plans to use the proceeds to invest in spectrum and improve service quality, according to *The Daily Star.* The operator recently sent a letter to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, saying that it could invest more in spectrum if towers are divested.

The government is currently planning to hold a spectrum auction for 2G, 3G and 4G services. The regulator plans to fix the floor price of spectrum at more than $25 million per megahertz. At present, Banglalink has 20 MHz spectrum in three bands, the lowest in the industry *The Daily Star* reported.

Tower Safety

Brought to you by NATE

New ANSI/ASSE Fall Protection Standards Published

ASSE recently published two Z359 Fall Protection Standards, which cover important components of an organization's managed fall protection program.

ANSI/ASSE Z359.2 – 2017 Minimum Requirements for a Comprehensive Managed Fall Protection Program

This standard establishes criteria and requirements for an employer's fall protection program including policies, duties and responsibilities, training, survey and identification of fall hazards, fall protection procedures, eliminating or controlling fall hazards, rescue procedures, program implementation, incident investigation and evaluating program effectiveness. For further information or to purchase a copy, CLICK HERE.

ANSI/ASSE Z359.3 – 2017 Safety Requirements for Lanyards and Positioning Lanyards

This standard establishes requirements for the performance, design, marking, qualification and verification testing and instructions for lanyards and positioning lanyards for users within the capacity range of 130 to 310 pounds (59 to 140kg). For further information or to purchase a copy, CLICK HERE.

DAS/Small Cells

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Minnesota

As In Other States, Minnesota Mulls Rights-of-Way Law for Small Cells

Minnesota is following the national trend in considering a law that would make it easier for wireless companies to install equipment in public rights-of-way, reports the *Hastings Star Gazette.* Like municipalities in other states where these laws have been passed, local governments are pushing back against the bill, arguing it greatly reduces their ability to regulate local zoning.

The League of Minnesota Cities is leading the crusade against the measure and described how the legislation, if passed, would lessen local governments' authority over local zoning issues. "The original bill would allow small cell wireless equipment to be placed on utility poles, signs, kiosks, traffic signals, light poles or arches without the ability of a city to adequately apply its zoning authority. Additionally, it prevents cities from negotiating rates, permit timelines and maintenance as it relates to the installation of emerging wireless infrastructure," according to the League.

The Minnesota House is currently considering a bill—HF 739—that would enable telecom companies to install and operate wireless facilities on existing structures within public rights-of-way. It also would prevent local governments from requiring zoning approval for wireless facilities in rights-of-way. Continue Reading

Tower Trends

Brought to you by VIAVI

Flying Cell Phone Towers Go Mainstream

VIDEO

Fenix Group, a private VA-based technology firm, has partnered with Martin UAV, a Texas based manufacturer of rugged utility drones to launch what they claim is the world's first drone capable of providing fully functional 4G cell phone service, according to *American Security Today*.

The feat may be a world's first, and the company sees huge potential for government and industry with the flying cell phone tower, weighing in at under 55 pounds. "When we first conceived the project, we knew we had to make it a priority," said Dave Peterson, Fenix Group's President and CEO. "The market is just there for this right now and Martin UAV immediately understood that."

"Beyond tactical closed networks for DoD at huge cost savings over what is currently being fielded, the marriage of unmanned systems with LTE core networks is representative of what Google was trying to do with their Loon program."

"We beat Google at something, for very little money, and that feels great," said Peterson. While Fenix Group's focus is in providing technology and direct support to DoD and partner forces worldwide, the utility for a flying cell phone tower – complete with subscriber database and billing functionality, means connectivity in the most remote parts of the world. Continue Reading

New Products

Certify Cable and Antenna Systems Efficiently and Consistently

Continuous growth in smartphone subscriptions and data utilization has forced many operators to accelerate the expansion and improvement of their networks. At the same time, service providers are under tremendous pressure to keep costs in check while maximizing ROI. As one of the key CAPEX drivers for any service provider is the expansion of the RAN infrastructure, it is essential that every cell site, regardless of type (macro, small, Pico, DAS network, etc.), is delivering the best possible service.

Minimizing RF loss at a cell site—by properly certifying all the cables, connectors, and other components—is critical for optimal performance. However, certifying coaxial transmission lines requires highly-skilled technicians to ensure testing is done correctly, consistently, and efficiently. This poses a great challenge for contractors, NEMs, and service providers to make sure resources are properly trained and are able to quickly and accurately run specific test cases and share results in a timely manner. Continue Reading

Stories Under Construction

It's another big show week! Stay tuned for updates from TowerXchange Meetup Europe (April 4-5) and the CCA Mobile Carriers Show (April 5-7).

Are you at one of these events? If so, don't forget to send us updates and pictures.

Business Services

Tower-Pro.com

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 Business Services. Within this category are subcategories:

- Business Brokers
- Divestitures
- Financing
- Insurance
- Investment Banking
- Lease Negotiations
- Loans
- Mergers
- Purchasing/Sales
- Real Estate Services
- Restructuring Services
- Valuation

Should your company be in this category?
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 Jobs

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DTREDS LLC is currently hiring Tower Technicians and Foremen. DTREDS is a telecommunications services company that offers a variety of services to the commercial carriers as well as the Federal Government. They provide structured, in-class and field training services to all employees interested in a career as a Tower Technician. Click here for more information.

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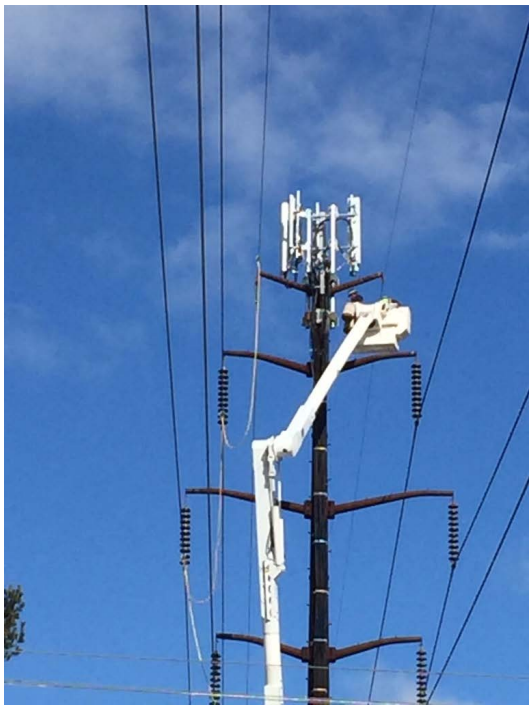

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