

# Inside Towers

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

Volume 5 | Issue 165

## [United Kingdom](#)

### ["British FCC," Ofcom, Braces for Spectrum Auction as Carriers Battle](#)

There was a time, long ago, in a United Kingdom far away where telcos, happy because they were free at last to compete, mostly did what they were told by their stern but fair government regulator, [Ofcom](#), without rushing off to the local magistrate to quibble over any injustice they felt intruded on their happy state of affairs, according to *TelecomTV*.

Those days, alas, are apparently long gone. The regulator has become the referee and protector of the public interest, blowing a tinny-sounding whistle, only to be mobbed by screaming players, i.e., the carriers.

Two years ago, the CEO of British Telecom (BT) openly threatened Ofcom with ten years in court and a veiled infrastructure build strike when it felt it had been wronged. Now Ofcom faces another, and possibly bigger issue, but this time it's about 5G spectrum and who can hold what percentage of it. The biggest spectrum holder is BT, and the smallest, Hutchison's 3G ("3"), with O2 and Vodafone somewhere in between. [Continue Reading](#)



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TECHNOLOGY

## [GCI Puts a Ring Around Rural Alaska](#)

Alaskan tower giant GCI has completed what they call a "TERRA ring" that will provide broadband to more than 45,000 Alaskans in more than 80 communities.

The company has completed the heavy construction phase of its Terrestrial for Every Rural Region in Alaska network, a massive Alaska infrastructure project that, when complete, will connect 84 rural communities to modern technology with high-speed terrestrial broadband. Completing the "TERRA ring" will mark a major milestone of the flagship project, creating a chain of interconnected communities that now have online access to the rest of the world.

After seven years of engineering and construction, GCI celebrated this milestone with Bethel residents Thursday at a community event that drew more than 1,000 people, including local and state leaders, U.S. Senator Lisa


Murkowski and representatives from Senator Dan Sullivan's office. [Continue Reading](#)

## Verizon Claims to Reach Over 1 Gbps on 4G LTE

Verizon, Ericsson and Qualcomm Technologies said this week they've surpassed the Gigabit speed barrier. During an Ericsson lab trial, the companies achieved 1.07 Gbps download speeds using the Qualcomm Snapdragon X20 LTE Modem. These speeds are part of the companies' ongoing evolution of LTE technology and a milestone on the 5G path.

This 1.07 Gbps achievement builds on [Verizon's recent announcement](#) about Gigabit LTE with support for License Assisted Access (LAA). Also of significance, the 1.07 Gbps speed was achieved using only three 20 MHz Frequency Division Duplex carriers using separate transmit and receive frequencies' spectrum, achieving more spectral efficiency for commercial networks and devices.



 Tower Ticker

August 22, 2017 at Close

Symbol	Price	Change	% Change	Low	Volume	High	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
AMT	142.09	+0.81	+0.57%	140.95	1.03M	142.26	142.26	99.72
AMX	18.88	+0.01	+0.05%	18.81	5.31M	19.05	19.05	11.02
CCI	105.75	+0.92	+0.88%	105.01	2.42M	106.45	106.45	79.38
COMM	33.27	+0.27	+0.82%	33.00	1.41M	33.38	42.75	28.74
CTL	19.90	+0.70	+3.65%	19.14	11.85M	19.93	33.45	18.41
DY	77.66	+1.56	+2.05%	75.84	785.78k	77.89	110.64	70.33
ERIC	5.92	0.00	0.00%	5.86	3.22M	5.92	7.55	4.83
FTR	12.04	-0.68	-5.35%	11.97	4.10M	12.83	72.00	11.97
LVL	53.91	+1.16	+2.20%	52.68	1.71M	53.92	56.74	51.62
S	8.23	+0.15	+1.79%	8.09	7.08M	8.26	9.65	5.83
SBAC	145.59	+1.53	+1.06%	144.07	674.49k	145.75	145.75	95.66
T	37.97	+0.39	+1.04%	37.56	14.65M	37.99	43.03	35.81
TMUS	64.38	+1.55	+2.47%	63.06	2.43M	64.50	68.88	44.35
UNIT	18.93	-0.30	-1.56%	18.81	1.83M	19.32	32.73	18.14
VZ	48.36	+0.22	+0.46%	47.80	10.69M	48.44	54.83	42.80
ZAYO	33.74	+0.77	+2.34%	33.31	5.41M	34.49	35.65	27.74



## Zoning & Moaning

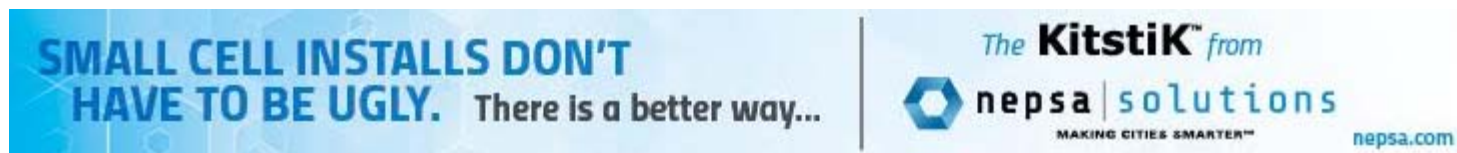
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### Delays in Narrowcasting Emergency Alerts Frustrate First Responders

A potential delay in implementing upgrades for Wireless Emergency Alerts such as geo-targeting, “has left the public safety community feeling frustrated and disappointed,” a representative of the Harris County Texas Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division has told the FCC. That’s after various telecom factions are telling the Commission they need more time to implement geo-location for WEA messages. *Inside Towers* quoted the Competitive Carriers Association, the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, which is developing the standard, and Apple on the topic [yesterday](#).

Improvements to WEA, like more granular geo-location targeting capabilities, solutions for preserving messages,

inclusion of multimedia elements and two-way interaction would make it more likely local public safety and emergency management organizations would use it, Harris County told the Commission in filed comments. Harris County “rarely” uses WEA now because it doesn’t want to potentially alert the entire county when an alert may only pertain to part of it; Harris County and others don’t want to over-warn the public, ultimately making them ignore the alerts. [Continue Reading](#)



## International

### [Africa](#)

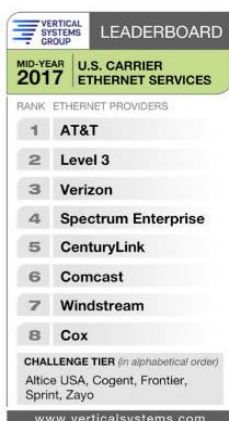
## Renewable Towers: Africa’s Expedition to Connectivity

GreenWish Partners, a renewable energy company founded in 2010, that finances all its own projects, is planning to invest \$800 million on solar-powered telecommunications towers across Africa, reported *Bloomberg Technology*. Sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest rates of energy access in the world, even though it’s home to half of the world’s 1.2 billion people, leaving households as well as businesses without reliable electricity.

According to GreenWish founder and CEO Charlotte Aubin-Kalaidjian, “We reduce the total cost of power by 30 percent. Smaller towers can run entirely on solar and battery, and larger ones reduce their diesel use by at least 60 percent.” [Continue Reading](#)

## 5G

## Verizon Moves Up On Carrier Ethernet Leaderboard



VERTICAL SYSTEMS GROUP LEADERBOARD	
MID-YEAR 2017 U.S. CARRIER ETHERNET SERVICES	
RANK	ETHERNET PROVIDERS
1	AT&T
2	Level 3
3	Verizon
4	Spectrum Enterprise
5	CenturyLink
6	Comcast
7	Windstream
8	Cox
CHALLENGE TIER (in alphabetical order) Altice USA, Cogent, Frontier, Sprint, Zayo	

www.verticalsystems.com

Vertical Systems Group announces its U.S. Carrier Ethernet Leaderboard results for Mid-Year 2017. The following eight companies achieved Leaderboard status (*rank order based on retail port share*): AT&T, Level 3, Verizon (includes XO), Spectrum Enterprise, CenturyLink, Comcast, Windstream and Cox.

To qualify for the LEADERBOARD, providers must have four percent or more of the U.S. Ethernet services market. Shares are measured by the number of customer ports in service as tracked by Vertical Systems Group, with input from surveys of Ethernet providers.

[Continue Reading](#)



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## Tower Safety

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### Women of NATE (WON) Presents: Mastering the Generation Gap

Is your company experiencing concerns of generational differences and attitudes? Do you want to recognize and utilize the strengths that each generation in your community, on your team, and in your organization has to offer? If so, you will want to join this timely webinar session on Thursday, August 24, 2017, at 10 a.m. CDT with world renowned speaker, author, motivational coach, and entrepreneur, Miranda Allen, as she helps you learn how to enhance the workplace environment by effectively navigating life, better communicating, and understanding the five generations that are actively working side-by-side in your organization.

Webinar attendees will learn how to:

- Minimize the effects of the generation gap;
- Develop better communication;
- Overcome conflict due to generational differences;
- Develop more understanding and improve collaborative efforts;
- Develop better relationships between generations; and
- Improve multi-generation team performance.

Miranda Allen is a member of the NATE Member Services Committee and Women of NATE (WON) and is Chief Executive Officer for Radiofrequency Safety International (RSI) in Kiowa, Kansas. She can be reached at 888-830-5648 or [mirandaw@rsicorp.com](mailto:mirandaw@rsicorp.com). [CLICK HERE](#) to register now!



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## Repack Roundup

### Raycom Goes With GatesAir for Repack Transmitters



[GatesAir](#) is providing new transmitters and installation services to Raycom Media for the television channel repack. The contract between the two companies covers 65 television stations in 44 markets.

Based on each site's requirements, Raycom Media will acquire Maxiva™ UHF liquid-cooled and/or Maxiva UHF and VHF air-cooled high-efficiency transmitters. All will integrate GatesAir's new ATSC 3.0-ready Maxiva XTE exciter;

and the latest generation of GatesAir software that provides real-time adaptive correction to optimize signal integrity and compliance. Maxiva transmitters are based on GatesAir's high-efficiency PowerSmart Plus technology to reduce size, weight and power consumption while streamlining maintenance.

"With the spectrum repack now well underway, stations know their channel assignments and have begun the transition process," said Joe Mack, vice president of sales, Americas, GatesAir. With its extensive manufacturing and service operation in the United States, "GatesAir is prepared to accommodate Raycom Media and other companies with the industry's comprehensive repack solution across evaluation, equipment and engineering services, including accelerated delivery, installation and commissioning timelines."

## Going Up

### Indiana

## AT&T Adds Another Cell Tower in Montgomery County

AT&T has increased its 4G LTE service area in [Crawfordsville, IN](#). The telecommunications provider has added three cell towers in Montgomery County within the last year, according to *Inside INdiana Business*.

The new site is at State Road 47 and County Road 200 South. Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton says, "whether it's attracting economic development or visitors to our community, this latest investment in technology by AT&T is great news."



## Company Profile

Brought to you by:  Tower-Pro.com

## Connected2Fiber: Engaging the Industry With Connectivity


By Keara Piekanski, *Inside Towers*



[Connected2Fiber](#) is a SaaS platform provider with a guiding mission to use information and automation to help improve how network operators go to market. Founded in 2015 by Ben Edmond and headquartered in Milford, MA, Connected2Fiber focuses on helping infrastructure owners pinpoint the best locations in a market, understand the inventory, and share data.

Before founding the company, Edmond already had 20 years of industry experience. He believed that there had to be a better, more efficient way for telecom companies and connectivity businesses to collaborate. Instead of keeping data siloed in Excel spreadsheets with no standardization of reporting across companies, Edmond wanted to help the connectivity industries manage and exchange location information quickly, easily, and in real-time.

[Continue Reading](#)

 **Product Showcase**

Brought to you by:



**BKON Extension Bracket**

Attaches to existing incandescent base Flip top design for simple installation - Your Nesting Solution



The BKON extension bracket's primary use is add extra height to the beacons that have been blocked by antennas. This is a simple way to get the beacons out where they can be visible and keep your towers safe.

This bracket uses two "U" Bolts that cross lock to keep it set at its designated height and provide a safe way to grab the bracket. It has a range of 31"-53." It is not supposed to go any higher than were it is painted RED. UL Listed / NFPA compliance jumper required to meet standard.

[Click Here for Product Spec Sheet](#)



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 **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 & 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 Shots**

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An eclipse tower photo from Alexandria, IN contributed by David Garza via [Instagram](#).

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