



# Inside Towers

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## [New York City to Complete WiFi and Cellular Upgrades in Subway Revamping](#)



New Yorkers commuting on the subway will no longer have to worry about dropped calls and poor wireless coverage. Last week, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the city will soon complete its communication upgrades on the city's underground transit system, one year earlier than expected, reports the *Christian Science Monitor*.

"We are reimagining our subway stations to meet the needs of the next generation,"

Cuomo said in a recently published press release. "This will better connect New Yorkers who are on-the-go and build on our vision to reimagine the country's busiest transportation network for the future."

All four major carriers participated in the wireless upgrade, and the system features more than 3,000 Help Point Intercoms that will connect 911 emergency services in the city. The system is comprised of 120 miles of fiber optic cables and 5,000 WiFi access points. [Continue Reading](#)

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## [Newest Member of FCC Transition Team Has Telecom, Commission Expertise](#)

Atlanta-based attorney Carolyn Tatum Roddy is the newest member of President-elect Donald Trump's FCC transition team. That's according to the [landing team page](#) which is periodically updated.

Roddy has a background in telecom law; she's worked as regulatory counsel for Sprint in the southeast and as director for regulatory affairs for the Satellite Industry Association. She was an FCC attorney for 12 years, according to her [LinkedIn page](#), representing the Commission in rulemakings, licensing, tariff and enforcement proceedings involving



Carolyn Tatum Roddy

wireline, wireless and public safety communications.

Roddy began her career on the Hill, where she was a legislative director and chief legislative assistant for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The addition makes Roddy the fifth member of Trump's FCC transition team, following Republic Wireless and Bandwidth co-founder David Morken, as well as American Enterprise Institute fellows Jeffrey Eisenach, Mark Jamison and Roslyn Layton, *Inside Towers* [reported](#).

## AT&T Gives Winter Storm Victims Free Mobile Phones

Winter storms in Northern Nevada and California cannot disrupt phone service for AT&T customers. AT&T's retail stores in the affected areas are giving away free LG B470 mobile phones to its landline and VOIP users who do not have a mobile plan. The company says the phones will keep their customers connected to emergency services.

The *Country Caller* indicated although the phones were intended to contact authorities in case of an emergency, each phone will come with \$25 worth of free AT&T prepaid service to make other calls to family members and friends. Customers can start picking up the phones today, but AT&T has not set a concrete end date for the giveaway.

AT&T is not the only telecom preparing for the storm. Other companies have prepared mobile cell towers for deployment, and prepared generators at cell sites in case power is lost.

More Info

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## Network Slicing is the Only Hope For Realizing 5G Says Trade Group

The multitude of necessary uses for 5G can only be accomplished through network slicing, says a new 5G and LTE for the Americas report. The industry trade association, 5G Americas, recently published the paper under the title 'Network Slicing for 5G Networks and Services.' Chris Pearson, President of 5G Americas, said, "As we progress towards developing 5G technology, cellular systems are expected to enable a transformation that will touch business, governments and people to enable them with new and diverse capabilities." Network splicing will enable providers to customize the network for each connected device, making better use of spectrum and optimizing speed at the same time.

*Telecom Engine* reports, “5G systems will be built to enable logical network slices, which will allow operators to provide networks on an as-a-service basis and meet the wide range of use cases that next generation networks in the 2020 timeframe will demand.” Each use case will have its own specific configurations, and require its own network slice; however, slices make each network’s speed, capacity and coverage flexible according to demand. Director, Intel and co-leader Rao Yallapragada further explained, “The implementation of network slicing will provide an end-to-end solution for flexible infrastructure optimized to address future use cases with diverse requirements such as speed, connection, battery life, latency and cost.” Further 5G developments and improvements are expected to continue as network operators incorporate technology as it is developed.

## What Does “Airplane Mode” Have to Do With Towers?

Air travelers are familiar with the “Airplane Mode” feature found on almost all cell phones, which shuts off all data and wireless communication sent or received via the cell phone. Most assume this is to prevent wireless signals from interfering with pilots’ communication, and, while this is true, the real reason is a bit more complex.

In a recently published article, *Techly* explored this topic and asked the question “what’s the point of Airplane Mode?” Citing an episode of Discovery Channel’s *Mythbusters*, the article notes that airplanes and wireless devices operate on different signals, meaning interference between the two devices is unlikely.

Rather than the FAA’s concern that wireless signals will interfere with the plane’s communications, *Mythbusters* posits that the regulation was implemented by the FCC, which was concerned that airline passengers would clog networks due to their wireless signal hitting multiple towers from such a high altitude. [Continue Reading](#)

## Sprint CEO Claire Puts Merger Talk On Hold Until Auction Ends

[UPDATE](#) Sprint CEO Marcelo Claire believes the company would be a strong merger partner with another carrier or cable firm. He told a financial conference last week: “I guess people will always look at the potential to create that third carrier. The new administration, I have no idea how they’re going to look at it.”

Sprint is not conducting any deal talks now; Claire said Sprint will need to wait until the FCC’s incentive spectrum auction ends to hold such negotiations with companies like T-Mobile, which is at the center of much M&A speculation in the telecom market, reports *Investopedia*.

Sprint parent Softbank tried to merge Sprint with T-Mobile but regulators blocked that effort. With Softbank CEO Masayoshi Son pledging to invest \$50 billion in the U.S. technology sector and saying he will create 50,000 U.S.-based jobs, there’s speculation that the Trump administration would be more open to a deal. “At this point in time, we’re going to [wait to] see what happens until the spectrum auction finishes, and then we’ll see the different levels of interest, which I assume there will be plenty.”

However it’s not clear T-Mobile wants to merge with Sprint since T-Mobile is in a much stronger place now than when Son last tried to pull off a merger. Sprint has also racked up a lot of debt, which may not make a deal as attractive, according to the account.

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## Tower Ticker

January 10, 2017 at Close

SYMBOL	TIME & PRICE		CHG & % CHG		DAY'S LOW & HIGH		VOLUME	52-WK HIGH	52-WK LOW
			CHG	% CHG	LOW	HIGH			
AMT	04:00pm EST	103.50	-1.52	-1.45%	103.17	105.25	2,248,749	118.26	83.07
AMX	04:00pm EST	12.74	+0.04	+0.31%	12.57	12.77	3,698,924	15.95	11.02
CCI	04:01pm EST	84.36	-1.37	-1.60%	83.96	85.69	2,203,064	102.82	75.71
CTL	04:01pm EST	25.20	-0.03	-0.12%	25.09	25.36	8,272,719	33.45	21.94
DY	04:02pm EST	78.64	+1.49	+1.93%	76.10	78.70	819,773	98.45	47.1
ERIC	04:00pm EST	5.8800	+0.0100	+0.17%	5.84	5.94	4,631,418	10.2	4.83
FTR	04:00pm EST	3.63	-0.05	-1.36%	3.61	3.71	18,368,292	5.85	3.1
LVLT	04:02pm EST	58.45	-0.19	-0.32%	58.29	58.74	2,901,473	59.24	41.73
S	04:01pm EST	8.76	+0.06	+0.69%	8.60	8.77	13,193,566	9	2.18
SBAC	04:00pm EST	102.60	-0.39	-0.38%	102.06	102.86	910,609	118.57	82.8
T	04:00pm EST	40.81	+0.01	+0.02%	40.24	41.06	21,498,249	43.89	33.43
TMUS	04:00pm EST	58.74	+2.07	+3.65%	55.30	58.84	5,457,769	59.46	33.23
VZ	04:00pm EST	52.76	+0.08	+0.15%	52.02	53.16	11,692,469	56.95	43.79
ZAYO	04:01pm EST	31.46	+0.49	+1.58%	30.81	31.55	2,193,381	35.65	19.59

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## International

### Canada's Xplornet Acquires YourLink

Canadian rural broadband service provider Xplornet Communications Inc. announced the acquisition from Vecima Networks Inc. of all YourLink internet services operations in



Saskatchewan. YourLink will continue to operate and deliver services while integrating operations into Xplornet regional and national delivery teams, according to *newswire.ca*.

Allison Lenehan, President and CEO of Xplornet said, "This acquisition will increase our fixed wireless broadband footprint in Saskatchewan and support Xplornet's mission to make affordable, fast and reliable broadband internet services available to rural Canadians."

Xplornet claims it has become Canada's largest rural-focused internet service provider. Xplornet plans to further expand its network with the continued extension of its LTE coverage and the launch of two new satellites offering internet download speeds not previously seen in many parts of rural Canada, *newswire.ca* said.

"The internet is changing, and Canadians want more from their internet service. They want faster speeds and higher data plans so they can do more of what they love online," said Lenehan of Xplornet.

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## Auction Action

### FCC Targets Friday to End Stage Four of Auction

Bidding in the FCC's incentive spectrum auction is up to four rounds per day — that began yesterday. Previously, it had been three rounds per day.

Under the new bidding schedule for stage four of the reverse auction, the base clock price will reach \$0 in round 52, which will be held Friday, January 13. The FCC said it's possible the auction will go two additional rounds beyond that "if the final bidding status has not yet been determined for any VHF stations."

That's why the Commission is adjusting the bidding schedule on January 13, to allow for up to five rounds of bidding that day if necessary.

### More Tower Info Required From Broadcasters for Auction Compliance

The FCC is giving broadcast television owners more information about what to include in their transition progress reports as well as filing requirements for those eligible for reimbursement if they must change channels post-auction. The Commission is [proposing](#) that stations that are not eligible for reimbursement but must move anyway provide progress reports in the same way and on the same quarterly schedule as reimbursement-eligible television stations.

Full-power and Class A television stations involuntarily reassigned to a new channel assignment are considered "Reimbursable Stations." The information will be accessible to "tower companies, equipment providers, engineering consultants, and other interested parties," to ensure they have access to station information. The reports will also be made public in each station's online public file.

As part of the FCC Form 2100 - Schedule 387 form, licensees must answer questions about whether RF tower studies or structural tower studies need to be conducted, or if tower modification or construction must be performed for their new channels.

The agency seeks comment on the proposals to MB Docket 16-306 and GN Docket 12-268 by January 25.



**6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SOUTH WIRELESS SUMMIT** March 27-29, 2017  
Music City Sheraton, Nashville, TN  
[www.southwirelesssummit.com](http://www.southwirelesssummit.com)

## Association News

### PA Wireless Association 'Checks In' to Penn State Children's Hospital



Pictured from the PWA are Marc Geddio, Chris Pleibel, Barbara Burba, Phil Burtner and Madison Conway

The [Pennsylvania Wireless Association](#) met yesterday at the Children's Hospital of Penn State Hershey Medical Center to present a check of \$20,500 in donation to its Child Life program.

"It is our honor to support the Penn State Children's Hospital year after year," said President Chris Pleibel. "The services and care offered to these children is the best in world, and we want to continue to help make it possible."

The funds were generated from the PWA Annual Golf Tournament in Philadelphia. 2017 marks the organization's seventh consecutive year of donating all proceeds from the tournament to the hospital.



**Inside Towers**  
**DATABASE**

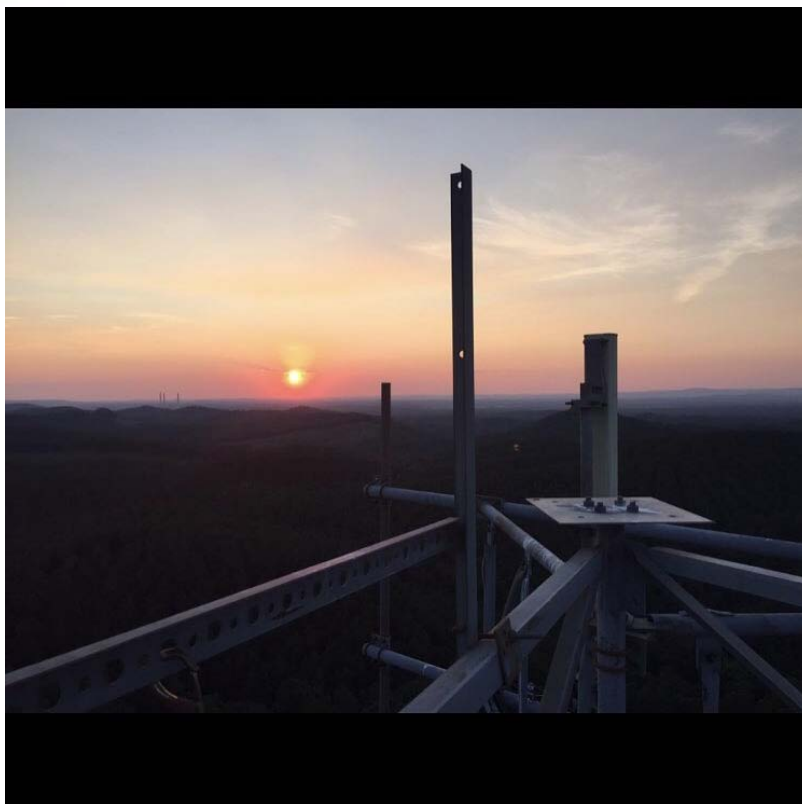
Finding tower data doesn't have to be a strenuous, complicated process. We've created a streamlined platform to

search over 150,000 tower records and related tower owner information. It is seamlessly updated to reflect data in FCC's ASR database. The information is organized through a user-friendly interface (Windows). The database offers plenty of easy-to-navigate features. Customize lookup fields, pinpoint tower locations on Google Maps, develop tailored reports, export them to Excel and more.

Get the details [here](#) or [email us](#) for information about this valuable industry tool.

## Tower Shot

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Childersburg, AL contributed by Tyler Swearingen via [Instagram](#).

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