



Inside Towers

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[Microsoft Goes on TV White Spaces Offensive in Name of Rural Broadband](#)




Microsoft's Brad Smith makes his pitch for closing rural broadband gap. Photo by Leslie Stimson, *Inside Towers*

Microsoft proposes to expand broadband access to rural communities using a combination of TV white spaces (the unlicensed frequencies between television channels) fixed wireless and satellite. "This coverage can reduce the initial capital and operating costs by roughly 80 percent compared to the cost of using fiber cables alone and by approximately 50 percent compared to the cost of current fixed wireless technology," the company says in a [white paper](#) released Tuesday. Using a mix of technologies, the cost to close the broadband gap would be between \$8 and \$12 billion, Microsoft estimates.


Microsoft supports the Commission's proposal to preserve one UHF "white space" channel in each market now that TV broadcasters are transitioning into the channel repack post-auction, and urged the FCC to do this immediately, [Inside Towers reported](#). NAB opposes this, saying not all the television stations that need to move to a new channel can be accommodated in the repack now and using white spaces would worsen that situation. [Continue Reading](#)

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[North Carolina](#)

["Unprecedented" Joint Venture Between Verizon and the Cherokee is Underway](#)



Wireless cell tower located off of Jim Bowman Road in the Birdtown Community. Shown (left-right) are Principal Chief Richard G. Sneed; Scott McPherson, Verizon Wireless construction engineer; John Anderson, Verizon Wireless project manager; Matt Pearson, PCI general contractor; and Rick Colcord, EBCI Office of Information Technology director. (SCOTT MCKIE B.P./One Feather photos)

Earlier this week, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Verizon Wireless broke ground on a new, 150-foot tower venture in the Birdtown community, reported *TheOneFeather.com*. This is the first of six towers – costing \$1 million – that will be built in [Cherokee](#) (the designated reservation area), all funded by Verizon.

“This is a big occasion for us,” said Rick Colcord, EBCI Office of Information Technology director. “It’s been coming for a long time. The impact of this program is going to be immeasurable.”

According to Patrick McGuire, Verizon Wireless government solutions manager, the joint venture is “unprecedented.” He added, “Because it is an unprecedented project, there is no road map for getting approvals and timeliness. It’s been a very fluid situation so there’s been a lot of work...it’s a great partnership.” [Continue Reading](#)

Cincinnati Bell to Buy Hawaiian Telcom

Hawaiian Telcom's board of directors have approved an agreement to merge with a telecom firm on the mainland, but the company says there will be “no material change” to local jobs, according to *Hawaii News Now*.

Hawaiian Telcom has 1,300 employees. Cincinnati Bell employs 3,000. The two do not expect to make major changes to employment because their operations are so far apart. The acquisition of any local company by a larger company on the mainland always raises fears that back office jobs will be moved out of state.

The deal, announced early Monday morning, gives Hawaiian Telcom shareholders the option to cash out for \$30.75 per share, take 1.6305 shares of Cincinnati Bell common stock for each share of Hawaiian Telcom stock, or a mix of \$18.45 in cash and 0.6522 shares of Cincinnati Bell common. The share price of \$30.75 represents a 26 percent premium on the closing price Friday.

Cincinnati Bell says Hawaiian Telcom will maintain its separate brand and will honor its union contracts. Regulatory approvals could take a full year.



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Metrocast Cable to Be Acquired by Atlantic Broadband

Cogeco Communications Inc. (TSX: CCA) announced that its subsidiary, Atlantic Broadband has entered into a definitive agreement with Harron Communications, L.P. to purchase all of its cable systems operating under the MetroCast brand name. Cogeco Communications will finance this acquisition through its Atlantic Broadband subsidiary with a combination of committed secured debt provided by two banks and an equity investment by Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec.

MetroCast's networks pass close to 236,000 homes and businesses in New Hampshire, Maine, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia and serve approximately 120,000 internet, 76,000 video and 37,000 telephony customers. Calendar 2017 revenue is expected to be U.S.\$230 million and Adjusted EBITDA is projected to be U.S.\$121 million.

"The acquisition of the MetroCast cable systems allows Atlantic Broadband to increase its presence in the growing and lucrative U.S. cable market," said Louis Audet, President and Chief Executive Officer of Atlantic Broadband parent company Cogeco Communications Inc. "The MetroCast systems are a strong strategic fit for Atlantic Broadband. With this acquisition, we are increasing our customer base in attractive markets adjacent to the ones we currently serve. Under the guidance of Atlantic Broadband's best-in-class management team, we are in a unique position to grow our customer base, revenues and profits."

Broadcasting

"Wireless Wins" Says Vertical Bridge CEO

Even as cable television providers are switching to a new broadcast standard, there are some who claim the next-generation technology is too late, reported *RBR.com*. Alex Gellman, CEO and co-Founder of Vertical Bridge, claims the ATSC 3.0 technology is already outdated, and does not make sense considering the availability of wireless. Gellman told *RBR.com*, wireless is the answer for broadcasting television. "Wireless is in the house, and wireless is away from the house. It is available in urban areas, and it is available in suburban areas."

Vertical Bridge provides communication infrastructure for both broadcast and wireless industries. Gellman believes over-the-top delivery of programming will only gain in popularity, especially after the FCC's recent spectrum auction. Companies like Comcast, AT&T, and Verizon are already pushing for more spectrum, spurred on by the hopes of gathering more customers via wireless television broadcasts. Gellman was clear, as communications continue to shift to digital, "Wireless beats wired every time," he said to *RBR.com*.

«BAR-NONE»
solution

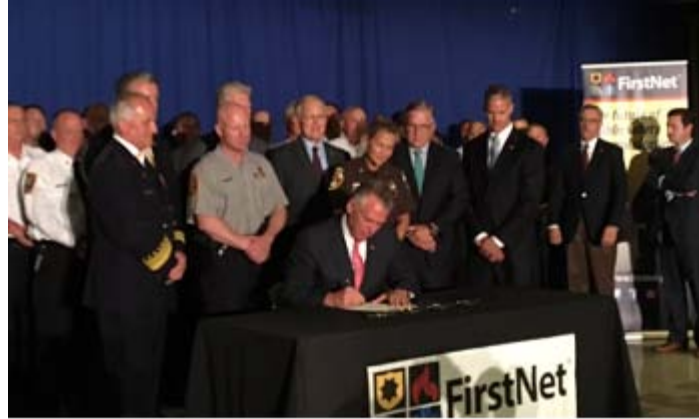
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More Info



Virginia Makes FirstNet Partnership Official; Wyoming is Next



Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe signs ceremonial FirstNet letter

Virginia is officially the first state to opt-in to the public safety broadband network, FirstNet. Governor Terry McAuliffe signed a ceremonial letter yesterday at FirstNet headquarters in Reston, VA. He previously signed a letter of intent and stated “this is only the beginning of the process,” noting he intends for “continued coordinated efforts among Virginia, FirstNet, and AT&T to provide public safety officials with innovative new technologies that will help them keep Virginians safe.”

Wyoming intends to participate in FirstNet as well. The state has taken part “in FirstNet consultation and outreach activities throughout the network planning and reviewed details of the FirstNet state plan,” Wyoming Governor Matt Mead said in a letter to FirstNet CEO Mike Poth. Mead wrote “that it is in the best interest” for Wyoming to take part in FirstNet.

Tower Ticker

July 11, 2017 at Close

Symbol	Price	Change	% Change	Low	Volume	High	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
AMT	131.03	-0.18	-0.14%	130.92	869.93k	131.80	137.12	99.72
AMX	16.69	+0.17	+1.03%	16.46	2.19M	16.75	16.75	11.02
CCI	98.36	-0.81	-0.82%	98.07	999.93k	99.29	104.68	79.38
COMM	38.00	-0.11	-0.29%	37.98	835.96k	38.29	42.75	28.28
CTL	23.25	-0.22	-0.92%	23.22	4.90M	23.62	33.45	22.33
DY	90.60	-0.98	-1.07%	90.24	373.12k	91.91	110.64	70.33
ERIC	7.35	+0.07	+0.96%	7.28	3.50M	7.37	7.89	4.83
FTR	13.88	-1.05	-7.03%	13.31	6.58M	14.70	14.70	1.03
LVLT	58.46	-0.30	-0.51%	58.40	595.14k	58.99	64.61	44.01
S	8.12	-0.11	-1.34%	8.12	7.61M	8.24	9.65	4.42
SBAC	133.60	-0.89	-0.66%	133.27	716.98k	135.49	140.38	95.66
T	36.60	-0.23	-0.62%	36.54	18.73M	36.86	43.50	36.10
TMUS	61.23	+0.43	+0.71%	60.67	2.71M	61.46	68.88	43.26
VZ	42.80	-0.40	-0.93%	42.80	10.97M	43.22	56.25	42.80
ZAYO	29.92	-0.13	-0.43%	29.86	1.40M	30.27	35.65	27.63



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Connecticut

Hartford's a Tough Nut to Crack But T-Mobile is on Track

Eco-Site Inc.'s plan to build a 150-foot cell tower in South Glastonbury at the western end of the 177-acre [Cavanna Farm](#) is back on after a six-month hiatus, reported the *Hartford Courant*. Over the past seven years, six separate

tower proposals have been turned away before they made it to the Siting Council, due to public opposition. The intended carrier this time is T-Mobile Northeast, which plans to close coverage gaps within the area, bringing better service to 600 residents.

Since the tower will border popular "pick your own" berry farms and a housing development, Town Manager Richard J. Johnson wants to ensure that residents receive ample notification of the construction plan. "I would want to make certain to get notice out to the property owners. It's very important they know about the proposal, they know when the balloon float is and they can come to a meeting and hear the presentation and offer their comments," Johnson said.

The tower will have to gain approval by the state's Siting Council, which has jurisdiction when it comes to locating towers. Over the past seven years, there have been over six proposals that never made it to the Siting Council due to opposition by residents.

Johnson noted that the town is being proactive with its own public hearing. "The town council doesn't want to be sending out notices of public informational hearings only to find out you are with the Siting Council six months from now," he said.

**SMALL CELL INSTALLS DON'T
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International

Six European Countries Agree to 700 MHz Cross-Border Policies

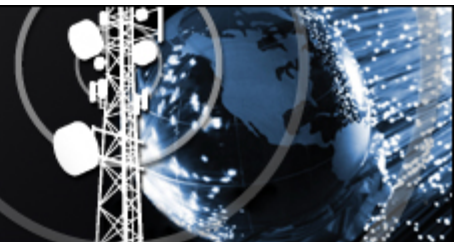
The authorities representing Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the Netherlands have signed a multilateral agreement defining the rules for the future deployment across their borders of mobile services using the 700 MHz band and the so-called L band (1427-1518 MHz). Cross-border coordination is one of the projects under way to enable European countries to release these frequencies for 4G and 5G services in the coming years, according to *Telecompaper*.



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Tower Safety

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NATE, Wireless Industry Network to Host Conference in September

[National Association of Tower Erectors \(NATE\)](#) and the Wireless Industry Network (WIN) announced today that they will be hosting a Great Plains Regional Conference on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, at the Embassy Suites

Hotel – Minneapolis Airport in Bloomington, Minnesota. The conference will focus on key industry safety initiatives and offer tremendous networking and professional development opportunities for attendees.

“This event will offer great educational and networking opportunities as speakers from all facets of the wireless telecom ecosystem will present programs on cutting edge topics,” stated WIN Director Scott Krouse. Presentations will include guyed tower anchor corrosion, unmanned aerial systems, stadium DAS, legal and risk management issues within the industry, and other topics yet to be announced.

NATE members and non-members alike are encouraged to attend this conference. The cost to attend the Great Plains Regional Conference is \$75 per person which will include a continental breakfast as well as lunch. Interested attendees are encouraged to register by completing the [Registration Form](#) on the NATE website. All completed registration forms and payments should be emailed to nate@natehome.com or mailed to the NATE office (8 Second Street SE, Watertown, SD 57201) by the registration deadline of Monday, September 11, 2017.



Company Profile

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Allstate Combines Traditional Values With State-of-the Art Service



[Allstate Tower](#) is OK with being called “old school.” After all, their founding company, Pittsburg Tank & Tower, opened their doors in 1919, and remains family owned and operated to this day as The Pittsburg Tank and Tower Group - a three-company conglomerate that includes Allstate. The company has spent nearly 100 years listening to clients and evolving ahead of the industry. This foresight and willingness to adapt has solidified its presence in the telecommunication industry, both domestically and abroad.



Recent evolutions include establishing a six-member engineering team, completing the process of becoming an AISC certified manufacturer, and equipping field crews to service broadcasters transitioning after the FCC Incentive Auction while servicing all carriers with the “fifth generation” (5G) wireless rollout. If you have the need, they can meet it.

“From engineering and manufacturing to modification and site demolition, we focus on delivering the safety, product quality and workmanship our clients have come to expect,” said Allstate’s President Keegan O’Daniel. A case in point is a job recently completed overseas for the U.S Navy. [Continue Reading](#)

 **Tower-Pro.com**
Telecom Directory

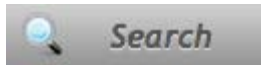
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[Tower-Pro.com](#), *Inside Towers'* companion Buyer's Guide has over 3,500 listings in 130+ categories. Each month we will be featuring one of our primary categories. Each month we will be featuring one of our primary categories. This month, we're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



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.

FCC Recent Releases



Latest posting from the FCC 7/11/17

Tower Jobs

Diamond Communications - Project Manager - Operations

Diamond Communications LLC is looking for a self-motivated individual with strong analytical and organizational skills to serve as a project manager to assist with the installation of wireless carrier equipment on Diamond owned and/or managed structures. The successful candidate will provide support to the company's sales and operations groups in our Short Hills, New Jersey headquarters and in the field. Click [here](#) for more information

Classifieds

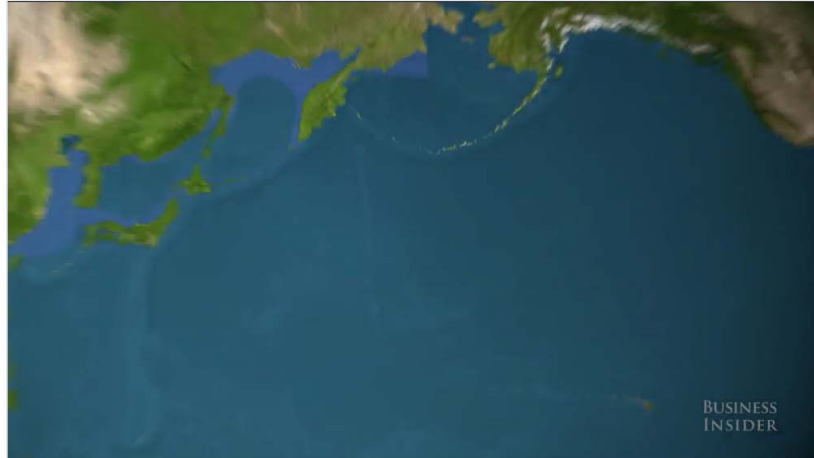
Controller/CFO Job Opportunity

A well-established full service turnkey wireless telecommunications company is seeking a controller/CFO. A minimum of 4 years construction experience is preferred. Click [here](#) for more information.

Top Tower Tweets



Cologix Colocation @Cologix4Colo · 14m
Animated map reveals the 113,000-mile major cable network that powers the US's internet read.bi/1pgaDzW via [@BI_Science](#)



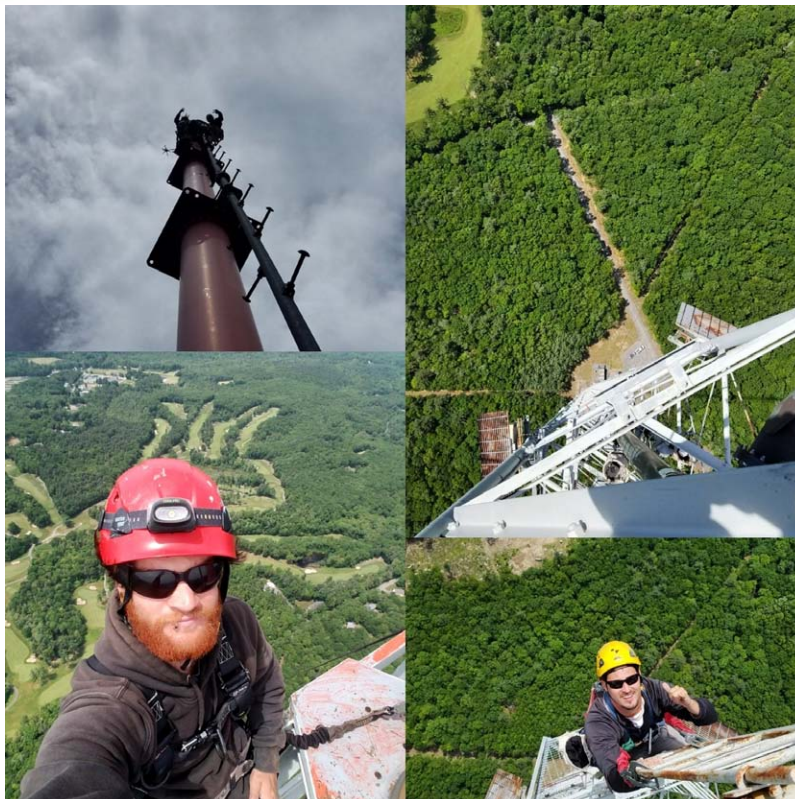
Animated map reveals the 113,000 miles of cable that power America...
VIDEO: It took 4 years for researchers to complete.
businessinsider.com



Click on the image above to access the video.

Tower Shot

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"The tower is 1,400' in Needham, Massachusetts... we were changing out the AOL on top of the tv stick for WUNI".
Contributed by Rob Zuffelato via [Instagram](#).

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