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Do you have an

January 11, 2008

MTA UPDATE

Deadline Today for Early Bird Booth Rate

Associate members who want to exhibit at the 2008 MTA Convention should register today to get the early bird rate. The price increases by \$150 after today. The good news is online registration makes it fast and easy to meet the deadline.

All the information you need to register as an attendee, exhibitor or event sponsor is available on one site.

Our theme – C3 2008: Competitiveness, Convergence and Consolidation—recognizes the three driving forces shaping today's telecom industry in Minnesota. For more information and online registration, [click here](#).

How Are We Doing?

Online Membership Survey Under Way

MTA is conducting an online survey to identify member needs, desires and to measure the effectiveness of current programs and activities. The survey takes only a few minutes to complete. It is an anonymous survey. Participants' identity will remain confidential. When finished, simply hit the submit button and the survey will be sent to the MTA. It is a fast and easy process. The deadline for submitting the survey is January 18, 2007. To take the survey, [click here](#).

21st Century Leadership Awards

Looking for a Few Good Leaders

It's time again to call for entries for the ninth annual Minnesota Telecom Alliance 21st Century Leadership Awards – an award to recognize MTA members that have made outstanding contributions to the progress and prosperity of Minnesota's telecommunications industry.

Nominations are now being accepted for awards in the following categories: Humanitarian, Public Service, Industry Leadership, Associate Member Leadership and Economic Development. For more information and nomination form, [click here](#) and scroll down to the

announcement for
People & Companies?
Send an e-mail
(info@mnta.org) or fax
(651-291-2795) to MTA.

[Save These Dates](#)

**Annual Convention &
Trade Show**

March 2-5, 2008

MTA Golf Day

July 7, 2008

**Fall Conference &
Communications
Seminar**

**November 18 & 19,
2008**

[Stat of the Week](#)

According to Yahoo
HotJobs, 55 % of U. S.
workers say that if they
dress more like their
boss, they get more
respect.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Is there someone in your
organization who you would
like to add to the
distribution list? Send their
name, company, and e-mail
address to info@mnta.org
and we'll add them to the
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INDUSTRY UPDATE

[“CTC’s Lucky 40”](#)

Group of 40 Co-workers Share \$1 Million Raffle Prize

A group of 40 co-workers from Consolidated
Telecommunications Company (CTC) in Brainerd claimed the
second and final \$1 million Minnesota Millionaire Raffle prize.

The group members, who call themselves “CTC’s Lucky 40,”
have each been pooling \$1 per week for Lottery tickets over the
past 16 months. The group purchased 10 Raffle tickets from
their Powerball® and Hot Lotto® winnings. Group leader Jennie
Johnson made a copy of all the numbers for each group
member to check. On the evening of Jan. 1, Johnson received a
call from group member Paulette Thoennes, making sure she
didn’t copy the numbers down wrong. One of their Raffle tickets
matched the winning number 356577 drawn on Jan. 1 to win the
\$1 million top prize.

The good news traveled fast at CTC — before Johnson arrived
at work the next morning, almost all of the group members were
aware of their windfall. Each group member received \$25,000
before taxes. “I think it’s coming at a good time for several
people,” said Johnson. “Most of them are making lists for what
they want to do. But I don’t think the reality has set in yet.”
“CTC employees are known for their generosity,” said CEO
Kevin Larson. Last year, CTC employees donated the largest
amount of money per employee to the United Way compared to
other companies in the Brainerd Lakes area. “Plans about
orchestrating a donation committee are already in the works,”
Larson added.

New Computerized TAP Form

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will no longer accept hard
copies of the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) reporting form,
effective January 1, 2008. Companies now have to electronically file
the new, computerized TAP reporting form, which can be downloaded
at [Http://www.puc.state.mn.us/telecom/index.htm](http://www.puc.state.mn.us/telecom/index.htm). The form is the last
item in the sidebar on the left of the page.

[Action May Be Required](#)

Local Number Portability Order Released

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued an Order
requiring rural incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECS) to comply
with the Intermodal Number Portability Order. Rural ILECS must

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Fax: 651-291-2795
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Chairman; Robert K. Eddy,
Vice Chairman;
Paul Freude, Secretary-
Treasurer;
Michael J. Nowick, President

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

provide wireline-to-wireless porting where the requesting wireless carrier's coverage area overlaps the geographic location in which the customer's wireline number is provisioned. Wireline carriers are required to provide local number portability (LNP) only upon receipt of a specific request for LNP by another carrier and may not obstruct or delay the porting process by demanding information in excess of the minimum information to validate the customer's request. The FCC has declared that LNP validation should only require a 10-digit telephone number, customer account number, five-digit zip code, pass code (if applicable) and be completed within 48 hours. Carriers will have 90 days from the release of the Order to comply with these validation requirements. Rural ILECS should review and confirm their readiness to respond to requests for LNP under terms of the new Order. Carriers currently requiring more than the four fields will need to modify their validation process/systems by February 6, 2008.

EPA Pushing Cell Phone Recycling

The nation's leading cell phone makers, service providers, and retailers have teamed up with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to give consumers an easy way to recycling cell phones. As part of EPA's Plug-In to eCycling program, consumers can drop off old cell phones recycling at any of the participating partners, which include AT&T Wireless, Best Buy, LG Electronics, Motorola, Nokia, Office Depot, Samsung, Sony Ericsson, Sprint, Staples, and T-Mobile, according to an agency news release. The EPA said it started the campaign because many consumers still do not know where or how they can recycle their unwanted cell phones. Consequently, less than 20 percent of unwanted cell phones are recycled each year.

[Information about the cell phone recycling campaign: epa.gov/cellphone](http://epa.gov/cellphone)

FCC Looking At Comcast Handling Internet Traffic

Comcast's handling of Internet traffic will be investigated by the Federal Communications Commission. FCC Chairman Kevin Martin, speaking at the Consumer Electronics Show, confirmed that the agency is looking into how Comcast handle traffic related to file sharing online. Consumers recently filed a complaint with the Commission claiming that Comcast hindered file sharing for subscribers using file sharing programs, according to media reports. Comcast says it doesn't block file sharing but does delay some traffic between computers that share files. The issue is being viewed as the first test of the Commission's efforts to enforce "net neutrality."

Sprint Moving Forward With WiMax Plans

Sprint Nextel will introduce its WiMAX service, Xohm, at the end of April, said Chief Technology Officer Barry West. A soft launch of Xohm mobile Internet service is underway with employees in Chicago, Baltimore and Washington, D.C., in preparation for commercial WiMAX service launch beginning later this year in select U.S. cities.

Reprinted for Last Week

NU-Telecom Completes Purchase of HTC

New Ulm Telecom announced today that it has completed its acquisition of Hutchinson Telephone Company ("HTC") for

approximately \$78 million. HTC will continue to operate as a subsidiary of New Ulm. The acquisition has resulted in a combined company that provides phone, video and internet services with over 50,000 connections in a number of Minnesota and Iowa communities.

“New Ulm is excited about the acquisition of Hutchinson Telephone Company into a new combined company,” said Bill Otis, President and CEO of New Ulm. “New Ulm and HTC are both well-established companies with 100-year histories in South Central Minnesota. Each company also has a strong commitment to its community. We believe the strategic combination of these two companies will enable us to take advantage of developing industry technologies and continue our commitment to provide excellent customer service in our communities.”

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

JANUARY 21: FCC FORM 497: All ETCs requesting reimbursement from Lifeline, Link Up and Toll Limitation Service provided to low income customers must file by January 21, 2008. The filing is for the fourth quarter of 2007. A copy of the form can be found on the USAC website.

FEBRUARY 1: FCC FORM 502: All companies are required to file semi-annually the Numbering Resource Utilization Forecast Report (NRUF) with NANPA. A copy of the NRUF form can be found on the NANPA website.

FEBRUARY 1: FCC FORM 499Q: Revenue reporting form due to FCC.

FEBRUARY 1: FCC FORM 477: Local competition and broadband report due to FCC.

MARCH 1: All companies are required to file a Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) certificate with the FCC.

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA & Industry Meetings/Events Last Week

Jan 8: MTA Legislative Committee

Jan. 9: MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee

Jan 10: MTA Directors Nominating Committee

Jan. 11: MTA Education & Human Resources Committee

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

Jan 22: MTA Executive Committee conference call, 1:30 p.m.

Jan. 23: MTA Video Committee, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

Jan. 24: MTA CLEC Committee, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

Jan. 30: MTA Board of Directors conference call, 9:00 a.m.

For a look at 12 months and more of industry events, [click here](#)

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Bruce Reuber, president of **Interstate Telcom Consulting**, was recently diagnosed with lung cancer. He is currently in the hospital under going test to determine the best treatment options. Cards and get-well wishes should be sent to the company at: Interstate Telcom Consulting, 130 Birch Avenue West, Hector, MN 55342-0668.

Ernie Frarck is retiring from **Interstate Telcom Consulting**, effective January 11, 2008. He has been with **Interstate Telcom** for nine years and has over 40 years of telecom experience. Congratulations Ernie and, good luck.
Do you have an announcement for *People & Companies*? Send an e-mail (info@mnta.org) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA
