



ACT NOW!

Early Bird Rate
Ends February 1

To register, purchase a
sponsorship or booth
space, [click here.](#)

Register online today!

Premium Booth
Locations &
Sponsorships Available

Time to Recognize Safe
Companies

Looking for a Few Good
Leaders

St. Louis Park
Abandoning Solar Wi-Fi
Project

Wireless Companies
Lose Court Appeal

Executive Shakeup At
Sprint

Sprint Files Lawsuits
Over VOP Patent

AT&T Opens Up Wi-Fi
Hot Spots

New Computerized TAP
Form

January 25, 2008

MTA UPDATE

Premium Booth Locations & Sponsorships Available

There are still premium booth locations and highly visible sponsorship opportunities available for the 2008 MTA Annual Convention, March 2-5, 2008 in Minneapolis. You can use the new online service to quickly purchase one of the remaining sponsorships or to register your booth. All the information you need to register as an attendee, exhibitor or event sponsor is available on one site.

New this year is a special opportunity to sponsor the Wi-Fi service in the hospitality room during the event.

Our theme – C3 2008: Competitiveness, Convergence and Consolidation—recognizes the three driving forces shaping today's telecom industry in Minnesota. To register, purchase a sponsorship or booth space, [click here.](#)

Time to Recognize Safe Companies

How safe was your company last year? The MTA Safety Program wants to know how participating members did last year in order to plan around companies safety needs as well as determine safety award winners for the past year. The safety material and award form was distributed to members this week. All members are urged to participate and help the MTA recognize safe companies at the MTA convention. Safety awards will be presented in the following categories: small company, medium size company and large company. In addition, a safety leadership award will be presented to an individual.

[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

FCC & Regulatory Filings

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Do you have an 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

The number of Chinese who can access the Internet has reached 210 million people and will likely surpass the U.S. this year, according to the official China Internet Network Information Center. CNNIC said its online population grew 53% last year, and the government's Xinhua news agency reported that China stands only 5 million behind the U.S., although the country still lags in the percentage of its population that is

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 bottom of the page.

INDUSTRY UPDATE

St. Louis Park Abandoning Solar Wi-Fi Project

The St. Louis Park City Council directed city staff Tuesday to pursue negotiations with ARINC, Inc., that would effectively end the city's current plans to offer solar-powered, wireless Internet services citywide.

Council members said the decision does not mean that Wi-Fi service is no longer an option for the city, but it acknowledged that it will have to consider whether beginning a new project is in the best interest of the city. The council declared ARINC, the Maryland-based company contracted to build a citywide wireless broadband network, in default of its obligations under contract to build the network last month. According the Minneapolis Star Tribune, the city's chief information officer said what the contractor built was in the wrong location with the wrong materials. The paper reported that it could cost the city another \$3 million in addition to the \$800,000 already spent.

Wireless Companies Lose Court Appeal

Cellular providers will have to continue putting taxes and fees in with the rest of their charges on customers' bills after the Supreme Court let stand a lower court ruling. Sprint and T-Mobile were challenging a lower court ruling that prevents wireless providers from listing taxes and fees as separate line items on customers' bills. The companies claim state and local governments hide taxes and fees by preventing companies from listing them as separate line items.

Executive Shakeup At Sprint

Sprint Nextel has announced changes in its senior management team. Paul Saleh, Chief Financial Officer, Tim Kelly, Chief Marketing Officer, and Mark Angelino, president, Sales and Distribution will leave the company Friday, January 25.

William G. Arendt, currently senior vice president and controller of Sprint Nextel, will serve as acting Chief Financial Officer. John Garcia, currently senior vice president, Product Development and Management, will serve as acting Chief Marketing Officer. Paget Alves, currently Sprint Nextel's regional president for sales and distribution, will serve as acting president, Sales and Distribution. All will report directly to Hesse.

Sprint Files Lawsuits Over VOP Patent

Sprint this week filed lawsuits for patent infringement against NuVox Communications, Inc., Broadvox Holdings LLC, Big River Telephone Company, and Paetec Communications, Inc. The lawsuits were filed in

online.

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 list.

WEEKLY BULLETIN is intended for MTA members. Redistribution is limited to internal audiences only.

If you wish to be removed from the MTA e-List, click here to [unsubscribe](#).

© copyright 2007,
Minnesota Telecom Alliance
www.mnta.org
Tel: 651-291-7311
Fax: 651-291-2795
E-mail: info@mnta.org

MTA Officers: John Finke,
Chairman; Robert K. Eddy,
Vice Chairman;
Paul Freude, Secretary-
Treasurer;
Michael J. Nowick, President

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

the United States District Court for the District of Kansas in its continuing effort to enforce its Voice over Packet ("VOP") patent portfolio. Sprint alleges that each of these companies has infringed at least 6 VOP patents by selling VOP services that utilize the Sprint patents. Sprint seeks monetary damages.

AT&T Opens Up Wi-Fi Hot Spots

AT&T will allow nearly all of its broadband Internet customers free access to its 10,000 Wi-Fi hot spots rather than limiting the service to premium broadband members, the company said. AT&T also will introduce a new service tier in which customers of its U-verse television package can get access to faster broadband-data speeds.

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.

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.

MARCH 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.

MARCH 1: COPYRIGHT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS: Cable service providers must file with the FCC the Copyright Statement of Accounts covering the July - December 2007 accounting period

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA Meetings This Week

Jan. 22: MTA Executive Committee
Jan. 23: MTA Video Committee
Jan. 24: MTA CLEC Committee

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

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

Feb 6: MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee, Olsen Thielen office, 9:30 a.m.

Feb 7: MTA Small Companies Committee, diversiCOM, Melrose, 9:30 a.m.

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

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

[Update on Bruce](#)

He's Making Progress

Bruce Reuber, president of **Interstate Telcom Consulting**, is showing some improvement and could be moved as early as today from Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park to a hospital closer to Willmar. He was recently diagnosed with cancer. The objective at this point is to get Bruce healthy enough to start treating the cancer. Please continue to keep Bruce and his family in your prayers. Cards and get-well wishes should be sent to the company at: Interstate Telcom Consulting, 130 Birch Avenue West, Hector, MN 55342-0668.

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