



## ACT NOW! Early Bird Rate Ends February 1

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

Register online today!

Early Bird Rate Ends Today!

How Safe Was Your Company Last Year?

FCC Seeking Comments On USF Proposals

Auction Bids Surpasses \$10 Billion Mark

Analog Cellular Service Ends This Month

Online Directory Selling Customers' Cell Numbers

### FCC & Regulatory Filings

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

### PEOPLE & COMPANIES

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

February 1, 2008

## MTA UPDATE

### Early Bird Rate Ends Today!

*Premium Booth Locations & Sponsorships Available*

Today, February 1, is the last day for active and affiliate members to get the early bird rate for the MTA 2008 MTA Annual Convention, March 2-5, 2008 in Minneapolis. You will save \$10 per person by registering today! You can use the new online service to register.

For our associate members, there are still good booth locations and sponsorship opportunities available. All the information you need to register as an attendee, exhibitor or event sponsor is available online.

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.](#)

## INDUSTRY UPDATE

### FCC Seeking Comments On USF Proposals

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) this week requested comments on three proposals to cut costs for the Universal Service Fund. The Universal Service Fund, which uses subscriber fees from telephone bills to support service in rural areas, has risen rapidly in the last few years forcing steady increases in consumer surcharges. One proposal would use a reverse-auction system to pick which company receives payment for providing service. The Commission also wants comments on whether funds should be used to subsidize broadband Internet lines.

According to the Associate Press, telephone customers paid more than \$7 billion into the fund in 2006. One factor driving up cost is the steadily increasing payments to cellular companies, which received \$1 billion in 2006. That is up from \$131 million in 2003, the AP reported. The AP story said the commissioners are in agreement that the practice of paying cell phone carriers the same subsidy as their landline competitors should be eliminated.

### 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**

About 7.2 percent of Minnesotans, or 374,000 people, were uninsured in 2007, according to the Department of Health.

### **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](mailto:info@mnta.org) and we'll add them to the list.

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### **Auction Bids Surpasses \$10 Billion Mark**

After five days and 16 rounds of bidding, the FCC's auction of the 700-megahertz communications spectrum surpassed the \$10-billion mark. The D block spectrum, which must be shared with public-safety agencies, has reportedly met the FCC minimum target of \$4.6 billion. The bidding, under FCC rules, is anonymous and the winner won't be revealed until the auction ends sometime in February.

### **Analog Cellular Service Ends This Month**

The FCC this week issued a news release to remind consumers that beginning February 18, 2008 cellular telephone companies will not be required to provide analog service. The Commission said most wireless telephone users will not be affected by this transition (often called the "analog cellular sunset"), some users may be affected. In addition, the transition could affect some alarm systems and some users of OnStar in-vehicle communications service. (OnStar discontinued offering its analog service, found in older cars, on December 31, 2007.)

*Wireless Telephone Service.* The analog cellular sunset will not affect anyone using a digital-only handset (including subscribers to wireless service from Sprint/Nextel or T-Mobile). It might affect those using a handset that can receive analog service from a cellular telephone company, including AT&T Mobility, Verizon Wireless, Alltel, US Cellular, and Dobson (and other companies that market their services as "Cellular One"). Companies must notify their analog customers prior to discontinuing analog service.

*Alarm Systems.* The analog cellular sunset may affect services relying on analog cellular radio equipment, such as alarm systems with wireless analog radio links. The majority of alarm systems installed in homes and businesses do not use a wireless radio signal to connect to a central monitoring station. Some alarm systems, however, use analog radio equipment and send a wireless signal – provided by a wireless telephone company – using the 800 MHz spectrum. These systems are affected by the transition. According to the alarm industry, out of a total 26 million installed alarm systems, there are approximately one million systems that use analog radio equipment. Wireless alarm systems installed before Spring 2006 generally used analog equipment.

### **Online Directory Selling Customers' Cell Numbers**

An online directory is now selling cell phone numbers online for \$14.95 each to anyone. Want to know if your number is among the 90 million cellular numbers the company claims to have up for sale? You'll have to purchase it to find out. Intelius, Bellevue, Washington, says it collects the numbers from public sources, such as property records and other businesses. Intelius Web site says the service provides such information as "name, address, phone company, connection status and more." Unlike the government's do-not-call list, consumers don't have a say in the matter, according to media reports. The service, which has been available for several months, doesn't advertise how to get off the

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list. However, the company said it will remove a number if the person sends a fax with proof of identity.

## **FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS**

**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. 30:** MTA Board of Directors

### **Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events**

**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.

**Feb 13:** MTA Marketing & Communications Committee, MTA office, 10:00 a.m.

**Feb 20:** MTA Legislative Committee, to be determined, 10:00 a.m.

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

## **PEOPLE & COMPANIES**

### **In Memoriam**

The MTA sends condolences to the Reuber family and the staff at Interstate Telcom Consulting on the loss of Bruce Reuber. He passed away January 30 peacefully at the hospital in Willmar. Bruce lost his battle due to complications arising from a procedure to diagnose cancer. Memorial service arrangements are pending.

Bruce and his wife, Beate, founded ITCI in 1981. Today - twenty-six years later - the company remains a leader in the telecommunications consulting business. Bruce received the Associate Member Leadership

Award at the 2007 Minnesota Telecom Alliance Annual Convention.

Bruce was a professional in all respects. His personality, hard work and dedication to the telecommunications industry will be missed. The remaining members of the ITCI team will continue in Bruce's footsteps to provide the same excellent and professional service well into the future.

Bruce's wife, Beate, and all the Reuber family want to thank each of you for your kind words, support, and prayers.

You will be notified when the memorial service is scheduled.

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