



## ACT NOW!

Still time to Register for MTA 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

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

Register online today!

Info You Need to Plan Breakout Sessions

Time Running Out to Get Booth

Things to Do While Attending Convention

Nextera Gets Stonebridge's Network

Qwest Earnings Rose for the Quarter

TV Converter Coupons Being Mailed Next Week

FCC Could Set Conditions For Verizon/RCC Deal

FCC Grants LNP Extension

AT&T to Provide Wi-Fi at Starbucks

February 15, 2008

## MTA UPDATE

### Pre-Convention Registration Ends Feb. 20th

Online registration will close on February 20, 2008. After pre-convention registration ends, you are welcome to register on-site beginning at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, March 2.

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

### Info You Need to Plan Breakout Sessions

The MTA will offer a series of educational breakout sessions on Monday, March 3, and Tuesday, March 4, following the general sessions. Nine sessions are scheduled concurrently at 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. Each session last 45 minutes. To assist with your convention planning, here are the topics for the session.

#### 9:30 A.M.

- Effective Marketing IP Products to the Small Business Market, presented by MetaSwitch
- IP for Technicians, presented by Finley Engineering Company
- De-escalating Emotionally Charged People, sponsored by the MTA Education & Human Services Committee, presented by Midwest EAP Solutions

#### 10:30 A.M.

- Phantom Traffic, presented by Vantage Point Solutions
- Video Content: Best Kept Secrets, presented by CC & I Engineering
- Key Decision Points for FTTP Implementation, presented by 3M

#### 11:30 A.M.

- Transferring Ownership of a Closely Held Business, presented by Olsen Thielen CPAs

## 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.

### 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

- Circuit and Softswitch Traffic Monitoring, presented by Computerised Business Systems, Inc.
- Measuring Your Competitive Performance, presented by Cronin Communications

### *Things to Do While Attending Convention*

Looking for interesting events and activities to attend while in the Twin Cities for the convention? Check out the following Web sites: <http://www.minneapolisconventioncenter.com/public/toDo.asp> and [www.visitsaintpaul.com](http://www.visitsaintpaul.com). A good site for making dinner reservations is [www.opentable.com](http://www.opentable.com).

## INDUSTRY UPDATE

### Nextera Gets Stonebridge's Network

Nextera Communications, headquartered in Baxter, has acquired the assets of StoneBridge Wireless of Eden Prairie. StoneBridge has an extensive wireless digital network with more than 60 tower sites currently serving Twin Cities business customers from River Falls, Wisconsin to Monticello. Nextera said it plans to integrate the StoneBridge wireless network with its existing all digital facilities and wired network anchored by its core facilities in Duluth, Brainerd, St. Cloud and the Twin Cities. Nextera said it will also expand the acquired wireless network by extending the network's managed services delivery infrastructure.

### Qwest Earnings Rose for the Quarter

Qwest Communications this week reported fourth-quarter and full-year 2007 results highlighted by substantial free cash flow, net income and earnings per share growth, the company said in a news release. For the quarter, Qwest said its earnings rose 89 percent. It reported net income of \$366 million, or \$0.20 per diluted share, compared to \$194 million, or \$0.10 per share, in 2006. Normalizing for \$106 million of income tax benefits, net income for the quarter was \$260 million, or \$0.14 per diluted share.

### TV Converter Coupons Being Mailed Next Week

Starting next Tuesday, the government will begin distributing the \$40 coupons for converters to keep some older television sets operating next year when signals are converted to digital. Traditional analog televisions that use antennas will need converter boxes to keep working after Feb. 17, 2009.

In just over a month since it opened, over two million requests have been processed totaling over 4 million coupons to date, according to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The agency is handing the distribution program. The coupon distribution process begins February 17, 2008, when Best Buy, RadioShack, Wal-Mart and many other retailers should be able to accept coupons

### Quote of the Week

The U.S. is saving 10 kilowatt-hours of electricity for each 1 kilowatt-hour that Internet-linked computers consume, according to a study from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

### 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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[www.mnta.org](http://www.mnta.org)  
Tel: 651-291-7311  
Fax: 651-291-2795  
E-mail: [info@mnta.org](mailto:info@mnta.org)

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and have certified converters available on store shelves. More than 250 retailers have been certified with more than 15,000 locations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Thirty-four converter boxes have been certified to date.

### **FCC Could Set Conditions For Verizon/ RCC Deal**

A Verizon executive this week speculated that the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) will set similar conditions for Verizon's proposed purchase of Rural Cellular Corp. as it did for other recent buyouts of regional wireless carriers, according to media reports. In recent deals, the FCC required Alltel and AT&T to accept a backdated cap on allocations they receive from the Universal Service Fund. These companies are reportedly two of the largest recipients of money from the fund.

### **Reprinted form last week FCC Grants LNP Extension**

The FCC has granted an extension to July 31, 2008 for all carriers to comply with local number portability (LNP) requirements limiting validation requests to four fields. The LNP rules had been slated to become effective on February 6, 2008. The rule limits LNP validation requests to four fields, including the ten-digit telephone number, customer account number, five digit zip code and pass code if applicable. The FCC explained that it believed consumers would benefit by giving carriers additional time to implement and coordinate their new validation systems.

The MTA will be hosting a LNP Workshop on March 4, 2008 that will focus on the FCC's decision, porting requirements and the porting process.

### **AT&T to Provide Wi-Fi at Starbucks**

AT&T and Starbucks announced plans to deliver AT&T Wi-Fi service at more than 7,000 company-operated Starbucks locations across the United States. Starbucks and AT&T will offer a mix of free and paid Wi-Fi offerings at Starbucks stores, according to news releases issued by both companies. Beginning this spring, Starbucks Card holders will receive up to two hours of free Wi-Fi service per day at Starbucks locations offering Wi-Fi access. The announcement ends a six-year partnership Starbucks had with T-Mobile.

## **FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS**

**FEBRUARY 29:** Comments due on PUC docket P999/CI-07-1484, Industry-wide Investigation into the Promotional Practices of Telecommunications Services Providers

**MARCH 1: FCC FORM 477:** Local competition and broadband report due to FCC. All ILECs, CLECs and wireless providers must file this form. All cable TV operators that provide cable modem service must

file this form.

**MARCH 1: CPNI ANNUAL CERTIFICATION:** All carriers are required to file a Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) certificate with the FCC. A company officer with personal knowledge that the company has established operating procedures adequate to ensure compliance with the rules must sign the certificate, place a copy of the certificate in the company's compliance records file and file with the FCC.

**MARCH 1: COPYRIGHT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FORM:** This form for cable companies, plus royalty payment for the second half of the calendar year 2007, is due. This form covers the period July 1 to December 31, 2007, and should be mailed directly by cable TV operators to the Library of Congress' Copyright Office.

**APRIL 1: FCC FORM 499-A: TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORTING WORKSHEET:** This form must be filed by all contributors to the Universal Service Fund support mechanisms, the Telecommunications Relay Service Fund, the cost recovery mechanism for the North American Numbering Plan Administration and the shared costs of local number portability.

## **INDUSTRY CALENDAR**

### **MTA Meetings This Week**

**Feb 13:** MTA Marketing & Communications Committee

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

**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](#)

## **MTA 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Sponsors**

*Thanks to the following companies for helping to sponsor this year's convention. We couldn't do it without them!*

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## **PEOPLE & COMPANIES**

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