



This Week's Headlines

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Web site Access?
If you need to reset

October 3, 2008

MTA UPDATE

[For MTA Fall Conference](#)

Monday Is Last Day to Register Online

The last day to register online for the MTA Fall Conference is Monday, Oct. 6. The MTA will continue to accept registrations onsite prior to the event, which is October 9-10, 2008, at the Northland Inn, Brooklyn Park. The online registration takes less than five minutes to complete. For more details and registration, [click here](#).

In keeping with the theme, **'the times are a changing'**, the topics planned include: blogging; a presentation by the new Public Utilities Commission chairman David Boyd; and useful workforce management tips.

MTA Opposes Carrier Migration Guidelines

In reply comments filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, the MTA concluded that the docket on carrier migration guidelines is unnecessary and the matter should be dismissed. The MTA came out in support of comments filed by Verizon and Integra Telecom earlier this month. The MTA believes there is no need to change the current procedures used when a customer changes carriers. The company opposed the arguments from anonymous interexchange carriers, saying the MTA does not believe the problems cited by the anonymous IXCs are prevalent in the state. Further, the MTA said it does not believe any specific guidelines are necessary.

Legislative Committee Seeking Input for Next Session

The MTA Legislative Committee is in the process of developing its proposed legislative agenda to recommend to the MTA Board of Directors on December 4th. If there are any issues that you would like the Legislative Committee to consider, please contact [Randy Young](#) via e-mail or call 651.291.7311.

American Cable Assn. Leader to Speak at Video Forum

Matt Polka, president and CEO of the American Cable Association, will deliver the keynote presentation at the MTA Video Forum, Nov. 18-19, at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria. The event, sponsored by the MTA Video Peer Group, gets under way with a kickoff luncheon at noon on Nov. 18. The topics to be addressed include operating video on demand systems, options for local content programming, advertising inserts, pending Federal Communications Commission issues and a roundtable discussion. The

your user name and password to access information in the "members only" section of the MTA Web site, [click here](#).

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](#)

MTA Fall Conference October 9-10, 2008

Northland Inn
Brooklyn Park

[Stat of the Week](#)

More than 60% of Americans now watch video online, according to a new study from ABI Research.

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.

second day begins with a breakfast and adjourns at noon on noon.

Hotel reservations can be made now at the Arrowwood Resort. The MTA group rate is \$94. Call 866-386-5260 or 320-762-1124 for reservations. Watch this publication and the MTA Web site for registration information.

REGULATORY UPDATE

PUC Approves ETC Status for Telcos

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) voted 5-0 to approve the requests of petitioning wireline Eligible Telecommunication Carriers (ETC's) for continued annual ETC certification. The PUC is charged with annually certifying to the FCC that the petitioning carriers will use universal service support in 2009 only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

As a condition of their approval, wireless carriers were asked to file a supplemental report on June 1, 2008 updating the status of any mergers affecting their company and to also include an affirmative statement about their continuing ETC status. A total of 92 Minnesota telephone companies were certified by the PUC to the FCC to receive federal high-cost support.

Commission Sets Draft Rules for Auctioning Off D-Block

The FCC last week approved a set of draft rules for auctioning off a section of the 700-MHz spectrum which is often referred to as the "D Block." According to media reports, the democratic commissioners expressed doubts about the plan, including one to set a new, \$750 million minimum for the winning bid. FCC Chairman Kevin Martin, who defended the proposals, said that a public-private partnership was the only way to fund an emergency-services network. [More](#)

INDUSTRY UPDATE

Union Rejects Qwest Contract Offer

Communications Workers of America soundly rejected a tentative agreement reached between Qwest and the union last month, according to statement on Qwest's Web site. On Aug. 17, the CWA and Qwest reached tentative agreement on the terms of a proposed new three-year contract covering about 20,000 Qwest workers. Qwest said its offer included wage increases totaling more than 9 percent over the term of the contract, modest changes to health care benefits and an increase in pension benefits for new retirees.

Broadband-reporting Bill Sent to President

The U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate have passed the Broadband Data Improvement Act, which will require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to deliver annual broadband-deployment reports. Currently the reports are done periodically and contain less data. According to media outlets, the bill adds a question on the Census Bureau survey about dial-up versus broadband Internet use to provide a clearer picture of which regions of the country are lacking in broadband access. It also will require the Government Accounting Office to come up with information that allows consumers to compare broadband-

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Secretary-Treasurer;
Randy Young,
President/CEO

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

connection costs and capabilities. It now awaits President Bush's signature. [More](#)

AT&T Reaches Agreement With DirecTV

AT&T has announced an agreement to market and sell DirecTV's service as a co-branded satellite television service after Jan. 31, 2009. The deal will replace the current agreement the company has with DISH Network. AT&T said it will offer new DISH Network customers a discount for bundling their wireless, home phone and broadband services with AT&T. [More](#)

Sprint Launches WiMAX Network in Baltimore

Sprint officially launched its WiMAX network, called XOHM, in Baltimore this week. The mobile broadband commercial service, a joint venture with Clearwire, is still awaiting FCC approval. Introductory offers allow customers to choose from both daily and month-to-month service options. At launch, mobile WiMAX service plans include a \$10 Day pass, \$25 monthly Home Internet service and \$30 monthly On-the-go service. [More](#)

Consumers Prefer Telcos for Bundled Services

By a margin of 2 to 1, consumers prefer to get their bundled communication services from the local phone company, according to CFI Group. Cable still provides bundled telecom services to twice as many customers. The survey of over 1,200 households found that customer satisfaction provides telecom companies with a competitive advantage. [More](#)

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

OCTOBER 20: FCC FORM 497, LIFELINE & LINK UP WORKSHEET:
Filing due to USAC

OCTOBER 31: FCC FORM 499Q, TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORTING WORKSHEET: Filing due to USAC

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week

Oct. 1: MTA Legislative Committee

Oct. 2: MTA Video Peer Group meeting

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

Oct. 9: MTA Board of Directors meeting, Northland Inn, Brooklyn Park 9:00 a.m.

Oct. 9 - 10: MTA Fall Conference, Northland Inn, Brooklyn Park

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

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Olsen Thielen CPAs and **Olsen Thielen Technologies** are inviting telco friends and associates to an open house celebration of its new St. Paul office. The event is Wednesday, October 8, 2008, from 3:00-7:00 p.m. The ribbon cutting ceremony is at 3:00 p.m. There will be hors d'oeuvres and live entertainment with a taste of Minnesota. The new office is at 2675 Long Lake Road, St. Paul, 55113.

Teri Asiala has accepted a new position at **Onvoy Voice Services** as Director of Corporate and Product Development. Asiala was formerly an independent consultant for Onvoy, and many of the local exchange carriers through Olsen Thielen.

MTA Fall Conference Sponsors

Thanks to these supportive companies for their sponsorships of the MTA Fall Conference.

Networking Break – Midwest Data, LLC and John Staurulakis, Inc.

Reception – Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Breakfast – Moss & Barnett and Onvoy Voice Services

Networking Break – Finley Engineering, Stellar Billing
and Olsen Thielen & Co., Ltd.

Networking Break – Calix, Interstate Telcom Consulting Inc.
and Farmers Union Insurance

