

## Technology you can count on.

### Independents Fiber Network Deployment & Operational Updates

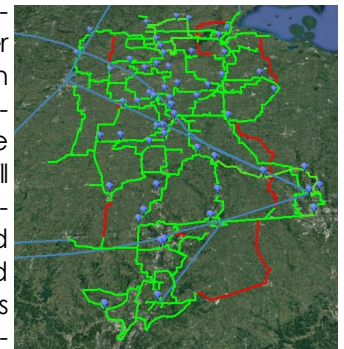
As 2017 moves through the halfway point, Independents Fiber Network continues to sagaciously expand its footprint throughout southern Michigan, eastern Indiana, and western Ohio. In addition to the expansion of our fiber plant, we still continue to improve internal processes and software to better our services for both external and internal customers.

Currently, we are wrapping up construction in the Monroe, Ohio region. This segment gave us fiber assets along Ohio 63 that not only allowed us to serve our anchor tenant in the region, but it also worked to improve assets we have acquired in the greater Butler-Warren County area. Recently, we have completed a project in Greenville, Ohio that expanded our footprint within the city by a couple of miles. This allows for us to continue to serve our existing customers and puts us in position to serve more areas of the community. Our route to Arlington, Ohio has been completed as well. This project not only improved our services to the local school system, it augmented our fiber facilities south of Findlay, Ohio.

Along with our recently completed projects, we still have several active projects that are in the construction phase or about to be released. Our route from Kenton, Ohio to Richwood, Ohio is progressing. It is slated for completion in October of this year. To optimize this build, we have secured a location in Richwood, Ohio where we will be placing a PoP (point-of-presence). This will give us the ability to serve the region and improve our own backhaul network. Our growth in the Fairborn, Ohio region continues as we have acquired land to build a PoP in the city. This will allow us to better tie-in multiple fiber assets and maximize the services we currently

offer to our customers in the city. In 2018, we will be building out our fiber plant to connect the city to its water reclamation center. By the end of October, we will have added a couple miles of fiber that will bring our network into the city of Trotwood, Ohio.

Work on internal processes continue at Independents Fiber Network. The implementation of mapping software is progressing. Once this software program is operational, we will be better suited to more effectively manage our assets and fiber plant. Our continued growth dictates improvements with our internal tools and processes. In addition to the mapping software, we have put in place a new system to process and manage all aspects of quotes, customer relations, and sales. This inclusive software will allow our sales, marketing, implementation, and management teams to more effectively process opportunities, manage orders, and improve customer communications moving forward.



Independents Fiber Network is committed to improving both its network and its operations to better serve our customers. So far, this year has proven to be a successful exercise in achieving our goal, and we look forward to a strong finish to an already great year.



## Fixed 5G Forecast: Verizon, AT&T Will Help Drive \$1 Billion in U.S. Service Revenues by 2019



5G fixed wireless networks, which will be the first broad use case for 5G, will generate service revenues of \$1 billion in the United States by the end of 2019, according to a fixed 5G forecast from research firm SNS Telecom.

The report, "5G for FWA (Fixed Wireless Access): 2017 - 2030 - Opportunities, Challenges, Strategies & Forecasts," predicts that the market will reach \$40 billion by 2025. It will enjoy a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 84 percent between the expected beginning of standardized deployments of 5G fixed wireless access in 2019 and 2025, according to a press release.

### Fixed 5G Forecast

Use of wireless instead of wired infrastructure can cut deployment costs by as much as 40 percent compared to FTTP, SNS Telecom said. And the ability to skip the laying of fiber can "significantly accelerate rollout times," researchers note.

The research suggests that the 28 GHz frequency band is preferred for 5G-based FWA and that vendors should follow 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) specifications. Finally, the research suggests that 5G FWA is viable for rural applications as well as urban. C Spire and U.S. Cellular are exploring this option.

### AT&T, Verizon Take the Lead

SNS Telecom credits Verizon and AT&T with pushing 5G FWA in the United States. Verizon has made no secret of their 5G FWA plans, announcing an initial roll out of the technology in 11 markets, including Ann Arbor; Atlanta; Bernardsville (NJ); Brockton (MA); Dallas; Denver; Houston; Miami; Sacramento; Seattle; and Washington, D.C. Some, if not all of these markets will utilize a Samsung 5G access platform, operating in the 28 MHz spectrum band. The carrier has promised gigabit type performance, even suggesting it as comparable to FTTH.

AT&T is already active as well, with 5G FWA trials in Austin and Middleton (NJ), that also feature DIRECTV NOW video streaming. These trials are in prep for a 2018 commercial 5G FWA launch, the company reported back in June.

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## The End of Net Neutrality and What It Means for Businesses, Consumers

Net neutrality has been a heated topic of discussion for many years, and the election of a new president has done nothing but dial up the temperature. Debates arguably boiled over in May 2017, when Ajit Varadaraj Pai, the newly appointed chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), moved to start rolling back established net neutrality regulations. The move, driven by the "Restoring Internet Freedom" Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), has set in motion a chain of events that could culminate in what many circles believe as the end of net neutrality.

While the "end of net neutrality" may sound like a foreboding if ambiguous concept for many, it presents some very real consequences for ground-level businesses and everyday Internet users. To comprehend the gravity of these consequences, it's important to first understand how the proposed net neutrality legislation fell into place and how the specific principles of this NPRM may impact the future for businesses and consumers.

### The Evolution of Net Neutrality

#### FCC Open Internet Order 2010

Prior to Pai's proposed roll-back plan, net neutrality was regulated according to President Barack Obama's plan for a free and open internet. The FCC Open Internet Order of 2010 stated that "an entrepreneur's fledgling company should have the same chance to succeed as established corporations," and that "access to a high school student's blog shouldn't be unfairly slowed down to make way for advertisers with more money." In the simplest terms, President Obama's plan said that Internet service providers were to treat Internet traffic equally.

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## Automated Technology Isn't Going Anywhere - And It's Changing Society

We all know that a lot of the technology discussions these days are dominated by conversations of driverless cars and trucks. But did you know that automated technologies are also alive and well in the food and beverage industry? Examples include Amazon's cashier-less grocery stores and "eatsa", a new tablet-powered vegetarian restaurant in Washington, DC. And now that Amazon has merged with Whole Foods, there is even more proof that the transformation of grocery shopping is accelerating and the key trend is not lower prices, but cross-platform selling and automation

**If you haven't seen our new video yet, you can check it out here. This is what our partners / customers have to say about CNI and Independents Fiber Network.**



<https://youtu.be/W1Ln6a7N8PI>

We welcome your comments, questions or suggestions.

Please send any feedback to:

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