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Read Them Now, See Them In Dallas

Meet The Contributors At Our Summit



Muni broadband is hot. You'll read all sides of the muni controversy in this issue. Our distinguished authors are many of the same experts you'll meet at our **Broadband Summit, September 12 – 14 in Dallas.** They include **Carl Kandutsch**, a former FCC attorney and author of our main cover story, *The Case For Municipal Broadband*; it's a manifesto that provides good intellectual ballast to the torrent of anti-muni apologetics flooding the nation's statehouses.

Extraordinary growth. Since we published the last big report on Fiber-to-the-Home growth in the U.S., in our December 2004 issue, FTTH installations have increased a remarkable 83 percent. That's in six months. Fiber optic connections to homes and businesses are now available in no fewer than 398 communities in 43 states. Be sure to read our extensive, in-depth report on this historic phenomenon – based on the just-released work of **Michael Render** of Render Vanderslice & Associates. It's coming in our June issue. *Don't miss it.* Render released his new study in May at a conference in Washington's Russell Senate Office Building co-hosted by Fiber Optic Communities of the US (FOCUS). And, speaking of municipalities and fiber, our June issue will also contain a follow-up by Kandutsch, *The Case for Municipal Fiber.*

Meet the mayors. Another contributor this month who will be in Dallas in September – along with other municipal leaders – is **Mayor Graham Richard** of Ft. Wayne, Ind. The mayor is a dynamic and eloquent speaker with a powerful lesson on how a fiber infrastructure will be essential for municipalities wanting to join the new class of "wired and inspired" cities of tomorrow. In Washington, I spoke with renowned telecommunications lawyer **Jim Baller**, who had just finished up his article for this issue and was on hand to hear Render and Mayor Richard. After the event, Baller updated me in the halls of the Capitol on his Summit session plans: He and his panel of experts will present striking new data on the *importance of bandwidth to economic development.* Another contributor, **James Hettrick**, director of information

systems for the City of Loma Linda, Calif., is also one of the presenters at our September Summit – with priceless experience to share with town officials and developers. *Note:* We will have plenty of developers and property owners in attendance; more on that next month. For invaluable first-hand stories on *how developers can generate revenue*, be sure to attend the Summit session headed by **Max Kipfer**, president of FOCUS.

Ask the money guys. You'll also meet **Hilda Legg**, an exciting speaker with a wealth of insights and specific dos and don'ts on *getting money for your broadband project.* After being appointed head of the Rural Utilities Services by President Bush in 2001, she distributed \$20 billion in federal funds to more than 5,570 projects. Other finance insiders at the Summit will be **Bill Johnston**, managing director of municipal finance for **Banc of America Securities**, and **Victor Frisch**, project manager at **Bechtel**. For critical case studies that take you *inside the deals and transactions that create wired communities*, attorney **Lawrence Freedman** and a band of veterans offer their hard-won insights. **Brad Worthington**, the COO of NTS Communications in Texas, provides a revealing anatomy of a telco's deployment of Fiber-to-the-User. Other heavy-hitters at the conference will be **Leonard Ray**, president of the **FTTH Council**, and **Bill Burhop** and **Brian Rader** of IMCC.

Guests from abroad with vital news and personal experience relevant to the American broadband market include **Takeo Osawa** – manager of IT and telecommunications for **Tokyo Electric Power Co.**, a giant player in FTTH. Also, **Robert Kjellberg**, managing director of MalarEnergi Stadsnat in Sweden, a municipal net and major player in the fiber-to-the-home market.

This will be a world-class event. See you there!

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