

CTIA Testing Days 1, 2, 3

On Wednesday morning, Global Wireless Solutions, Inc. (“GWS”) completed its final performance testing of four wireless national carriers inside the convention center as their networks remained loaded with traffic from CTIA. GWS continued its indoor testing using Rohde & Schwarz’s SwissQual Ranger backpack solution. In addition, GWS also performed data testing using a GWS-developed speed test app loaded onto Samsung Galaxy S3 and S4 devices. If yesterday you saw a gentleman carrying an oversized backpack and two other engineers carrying 3 smartphones each, then you saw GWS’s testing in progress.

The performance of all voice networks was robust, with no carriers dropping any calls. AT&T’s LTE network consistently maintained an excellent delivery rate on download throughput, providing rates between 7 and 10 Mbps on both the Ranger and GWS’s speed test app. Even with the loaded traffic, AT&T was able to deliver over 10 percent of its sessions at more than 20 Mbps. Verizon’s LTE download throughputs continued a slight downward slide of about 20 percent from the previous day, delivering around 5 Mbps. Verizon upload throughputs remained steady at about 3 Mbps. T-Mobile’s DC-HSPA network was a carbon copy of Tuesday’s results, with downloads at 2 to 3 Mbps but with a frustratingly high 50% of all attempted sessions failing on both test platforms. Sprint’s EVDO was still the slowest, with throughputs reduced mostly consistent with Tuesday’s results.

The performance improvement of data networks in the past few years has been truly astounding, even in the midst of massive demand. GWS has been performing benchmark testing nationwide since 2000. During the last 10 years, GWS has seen a 200-fold increase in data throughputs. “Between

2003 and 2010, throughput rates increased from approximately 30 kbps to 600 kbps: a 20-fold increase” said Dr. Paul Carter, President and CEO of GWS. “The past 3 years have shown an additionally dramatic 10-fold increase in throughput rates and, with operators swiftly launching and optimizing their LTE networks throughout the country, it is expected that these data throughput gains will continue.” As you can see from the CTIA show results, today it is not uncommon for users on 4G LTE networks to experience throughput rates over 6 Mbps. ●

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