

GWS: Carrier Networks Weather Heavy Traffic at SMW

The CTIA floodgates have opened. As everyone descends on to the show floor and the biggest players make major news announcements, the networks are under more pressure to perform than ever before. Yesterday's Show Daily revealed that we've teamed up with network testing specialists, Global Wireless Solutions, to see how the mobile networks hold up across the entire convention center during this busy time. Have you spotted anyone running around with a seriously teched up backpack today? If so, that would be the GWS team who have been using their cutting-edge kit to test how LTE data, VoLTE and HD voice networks are performing in real-time during this critical time.

Yesterday, GWS found that network performance on a largely unloaded network was, not surprisingly, pretty good. So how do things look after day one, when the world's mobile ecosystem has descended on the congress? Here's how they fared...

Testing showed that Sprint's CDMA and Verizon's VoLTE networks were the only networks to successfully complete all voice calls. AT&T's VoLTE blocked a few calls near the CTIA registration area around 10:30 when the main floor was opened. T-Mobile's VoLTE struggled the most to set up audio calls with blocking throughout the outside entrance hallway, ballrooms and around the bistro in the Retail Zone. GWS performed audio MOS testing using wideband codec reference files to test HD voice on all networks. T-Mobile and Verizon were unchanged from yesterday, delivering

the best HD voice quality, while only about 85% of AT&T's and Sprint's audio samples delivered solid HD quality.

With the influx of traffic arriving on Wednesday, T-Mobile's 20-MHz wide AWS channel "slowed" to an average download speed of 25 Mbps (from an unloaded 35 Mbps yesterday). Meanwhile, T-Mobile's 18 Mbps upload speed could complete a typical selfie upload in less than 2 seconds. AT&T and T-Mobile also had the fewest number of failed tasks. AT&T delivered the next highest download throughput levels at 9 Mbps (half of yesterday's unloaded 18 Mbps). Similar to yesterday, AT&T's LTE-CA usage (carrier aggregation – a combined 20 MHz bandwidth) was available 33 percent of the time. Verizon delivered download throughputs at 7 Mbps, but had the widest range of user experience with 40 percent of all tasks having throughputs less than 1.5 Mbps (particularly in rear of the Retail Zone and the Tower & Small Cell Summit and Testing Zones). Sprint's LTE network delivered about 6 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Latencies were stressed today. Verizon still had the least amount of latency at 71 msec (down from 57 msec yesterday) with T-Mobile trailing at 90 msec and AT&T at 115 msec.

Big picture - as the Show gets underway, stress levels were increased on all fronts – networks, vendors and attendees! Stay tuned for Thursday's results to see how the networks perform under the continued stress! ●

Caution: Watch for Low-Flying Drones

CTIA attendees won't be the only ones flying into Las Vegas this week.

In order to provide mobile professionals with a comprehensive experience of the mobile industry, CTIA has partnered with InterDrone to showcase the red-hot and rapidly expanding field of drone technology.

The first global-scale commercial drone conference for builders, flyers and buyers, InterDrone's International Drone Conference and Exposition will be held Wednesday through Friday, Sept. 9-11 during CTIA at the Rio.

With a packed line-up of expert industry speakers and a variety of exhibitors, including Multicopter Warehouse, 3DR, DJI, Hobbico, Inc., Stampede, Yuneec Aviation Technology, Botlink and Flir, among many others, the conference will provide attendees with a two-day technical conference for engineers and software developers building drones as well as an overlapping conference for commercial drone buyers and flyers.

"This strategic partnership is a perfect marriage of minds and technology," said InterDrone's Ted Bahr, president of BZ Media. "CTIA Super Mobility 2015 complements InterDrone by giving our attendees the opportunity to discover new, synergistic technology advancing today's mobile landscape."

The InterDrone conference will feature more than 100 classes,



All aspects of drone technology will be discussed at InterDrone this week.

panels and industry keynotes from leaders in the evolving commercial drone industry. Covered topics will include Flying Cameras, 3D Robotics, FAA Regulations and Using Consumer Drones in Professional Applications.

CTIA guests who wish to visit the InterDrone conference can catch an express shuttle that will run between the two events on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 10-11. ●