

# Ericsson, NetAmerica Work on Rural Broadband

BY MAISIE RAMSAY

**E**ricsson is getting in on the increased demand for mobile broadband services in rural areas of the United States.

The infrastructure vendor has inked a deal with the NetAmerica Alliance to supply the radio access network and core network for NetAmerica's LTE network in rural areas of the country. The planned nationwide LTE network will be shared by multiple independent Tier 2 and Tier 3 operators.

Financial terms of the deal were not released, and neither Ericsson nor NetAmerica provided details about when the network was expected to begin commercial operations.

"This is a new type of LTE deployment. NetAmerica is making it

possible for smaller operators to join together to deliver cost effectively the same mobile broadband services available in major metropolitan areas," said Arun Bhikshesvaran, Ericsson's North America strategy chief, in a statement.

Ericsson's four-year contract with NetAmerica also covers IMS and its mobile home gateway technology, which will integrate with NetAmerica's existing wireline services.

"We needed a partner who could truly work with us and our alliance participants to not only bring 4G wireless to their communities, but to provide true converged services for their wireline business as well," said NetAmerica CEO Roger Hutton in a statement.

"After an extensive evaluation of all the major suppliers, Ericsson proved to be that partner."

Ericsson also announced that it is working with United Utilities on its \$44 million TERRA-Southwest project in Alaska. The project is being financed by stimulus funds and will bring fixed broadband service to 65 rural communities in southwest Alaska when it finishes. According to the terms of the five-year contract, Ericsson will be the sole microwave equipment sup-

plier for the project.

Aside from the rural broadband announcements, Ericsson also announced that it has conducted successful demonstrations of DO Advanced smart networking capabilities for EV-DO Advanced. The company also introduced two new HSPA mobile broadband modules and became a founding member of the New Cities Foundation, a Swiss non-profit dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents in major metropolitan areas. ●

## Engineers Measure Networks as Crowd at Show Grows

**A**s part of its ongoing tests inside and around the convention center this week, Global Wireless Solutions (GWS) on Tuesday morning performed a follow-up test to its Monday baseline.

GWS engineers are using specially equipped backpacks to monitor the performance of the four major wireless national carriers inside the convention center as their networks get more and more loaded with traffic as the week progresses.

Testing of the voice networks showed that Sprint and Verizon Wireless now occupy the top tier, with AT&T dropping behind along with T-Mobile. However, download throughput tests showed that T-Mobile's and AT&T's HSPA+ networks pulled ahead of Verizon's LTE network, which continues to exhibit variations in its delivered throughput.

GWS says Verizon was the only carrier to fail multiple download requests. Sprint's EV-DO network showed the strain of the load with the largest

degradation of all carriers from the baseline test. With regards to uplink speeds, Verizon's LTE network performed well. AT&T, Sprint and T-Mobile all had difficulty completing the upload tasks.

Engineers in the GWS van continued to perform mobile testing along the roadways and parking lots surrounding the convention center. The voice performance outside for MetroPCS, Sprint and Verizon improved such that no failed calls occurred, whereas AT&T and T-Mobile both still failed a single call each.

The Verizon LTE network still exhibited more stability and consistency outdoors, and it entered into a category of its own in delivered throughput. T-Mobile and AT&T were in the next throughput tier, but T-Mobile continued (from Monday) the tendency to not complete tasks. The Sprint EV-DO and Verizon EV-DO networks came in behind T-Mobile and AT&T. Clearwire clearly struggled to handle the load, and failed almost all tasks. ●

The advertisement features the Muvve logo at the top left, with the tagline "We expressed™". To the right, it says "DEVICE SOLUTIONS GROUP". The main headline is "edit 3D & HD on mobile" in large, stylized blue and purple 3D letters. Below this, it says "make awesome videos instantly!" in red and black text. At the bottom left is the Android robot logo, and at the bottom right is a gold seal that says "PIONEER IN MOBILE VIDEO EDITING SOFTWARE SINCE 2004". A red banner at the very bottom contains the text "See our latest Android video apps at APPS WORLD #2895A".