Meet Me in Charlotte

An ongoing series examining carrier interconnection options in major North American markets

When it comes to carrier hotels in Hornet country, the Charlotte NAP is the buzz around town. The Charlotte NAP is the only location in Charlotte, N.C. that was built specifically for the telecom, disaster recovery and hosting service industries. It is a carrier hotel comprised of three buildings that are interconnected via building-owned conduits, and recently the management announced a building-owned meet me room that is now getting started. It is not a traditional public Internet access point, as per the common definition of the NAP acronym. The facilities were specifically designed in a location offering the greatest number of connectivity options in the market – hence "network access point" but non-Internet specific.

Charlotte, as a growing market and the number two banking city in the United States, is the home to multiple Fortune 500 companies and a diverse financial and services market. This presents an opportunity for prospective carrier and enterprise network operators looking to open up this region for on-net service.

The Charlotte NAP offers 100,000 square feet of newly designed and built "from the ground up" mission-critical facilities located at the fiber hub of Charlotte. The facilities offer numerous amenities in a secure and fiber-rich atmosphere including floor loading up to 500 pounds per square foot live load, a 5,000-pound capacity oversized elevator, chase space allotted for fiber, HVAC and electrical in diverse locations and many other design features.

The meet me room is fully built out offering 10,000 square feet of raised floor, closed circuit video security, racks, cages and fan-cooled cabinets in place. Fiber has been brought into the facility, offering easy connectivity to providers in the complex. The MMR also has UPS, DC, generator back-up and many other amenities.

There are eight carriers that have established a presence within the Charlotte NAP and five with a fiber presence within the MMR. There also is an additional five carriers with access to the street-level fiber vaults, making this site a key interconnection point and setting the stage for the next network deployment in the area to have it easier than the last. So, if you are feeling the sting of limited network access and inadequate infrastructure in the land of the Hornets, maybe you should run for the shelter of the Charlotte NAP.

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Hunter Newby is chief strategy officer of tel^X. If you own, operate or know of an interesting property that you would like featured in this series, please contact Hunter at hnewby@telx.com. Thank you.

Carrier List

Fiber within the MMR
AT&T
BellSouth
DukeNet
Qwest
Time Warner Telecom

Presence within Building
Verizon
Level 3
MCI

Access Available through Fiber Vaults
PalmettoNet
WilTel
ITC^Deltacom
Global Crossing
Sprint

Attributes of Charlotte NAP

Building size	100,000-square-foot complex
Union building	No
Building generator	Myers & Chapman
Generator rooms for tenants	Generator and fuel storage yard
Roof access	Yes, with steel structure for placement of rooftop equipment allowing for no roof penetrations
Tenant conduit rights	Full chase diverse chase space offering tenants its pro rata share of fiber conduit, electrical and HVAC chase. Conduit already stubbed from building to exterior fiber vaults in diverse locations.
Is there a building meet me room?	In process. Offers a fully "built out" meet me room available for lease called the Charlotte MMR.
Is this MMR the featured site?	Yes

Attributes of the Interconnect Facility

Facility Size	10,500 sq. ft.
Suite	300
AC power feed	800 amps at 480 volts
Generator	800 kva
Control system	Yes
UPS	Yes
DC plant	Yes
HVAC	Liebert 24-7 units
Fire suppression	Dry pipe, pre-action double interlock system

Charlotte NAP Interconnection Guidelines

Can customers order cross connects to any other meet area customer?	Yes
Is the average turnaround time for cross connects 48 hours or less?	Yes
Is on-site technical support available 24/7/365?	Yes
Can customers access the site 24/7/365?	Yes
Can the technicians test and turn up circuits?	Yes
Does the meet area operator perform the cross connect?	Yes
Can the customer perform the cross connect?	Yes
Are all cross connects tagged and inventoried?	Yes
Is there a shared fiber panel (MDF, CFDP)?	Yes
Can the customer bring and install its own fiber distribution panels?	Yes
Is there a shared COAX or copper panel?	Yes
Can the customer bring and install its own COAX or copper panel?	Yes
Are there monthly recurring charges to cross connect in the meet area?	No

For carriers not in the meet area, the interconnect options include:

Fiber chase through building owned conduit

The costs and availability are determined by:

Please visit www.charlottemmr.com for a list of pricing for intra MMR and Charlotte NAP connectivity.