Meet Me in Indy

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

Carrier List

AT&T
AT&T Cellular
Broadwing
Choice One
Cinergy/Kentucky Data Link
CityNet
Elantic Telecom
Fiber Works
Fibertech
First National Merchant Solutions
Global Crossing
Grande Communications
Lifeline Data Centers, LLC
MCI
McLeod USA
MFS
Norlight
NuVox Communications
Qwest Communications
Switch and Data
Time Warner
US Signal
WilTel Communications

In a city where speed is highly appreciated, speed to market and a quick interconnection are no exceptions. Carrier hotel meet carrier motel.

Indy Telcom Center in Indianapolis is indeed one of the most interesting network interconnection facilities in the country. The number of buildings, the layout, the interconnection process and the carrier density all are unique and help to eliminate any caution flags on the road to service delivery.

Eighteen years ago, a company called Lightnet chose a site to build its Indianapolis switching facility because of proximity to its railroad right of way, where the company was constructing fiber optic cable through downtown Indianapolis. Several years later, Lightnet was acquired by WilTel, which was then purchased by LDDS, which ultimately became MCI.

The owners of this building began to notice a trend. In the early 1990s interest in telecom carrier switch space was increasing, and by the late 1990s the property owners had built or rehabilitated 12 buildings on about 10 acres of land, providing some 280,000 square feet of space. All of the buildings were designed and occupied exclusively for telecommunications purposes.

Indy Telcom Center has implemented massive conduit banks connecting each building to each other, whether through under-slab conduits within a multi-tenant building or through a series of vaults, handholes and basements that connect the buildings. Tenants have the right to use these conduits or implement their own routes within the buildings and on the property. The tenant has the right to use conduits as long as the carrier or tenant remains a tenant of the Indy Telcom Center.

The conduit system allows a tenant to interconnect to anywhere in the facility. Most have looped the facility with fiber cable and have their own fiber distribution panels in most of the meet me rooms in the different buildings.

The conduit system interconnects all of the meet me rooms within each of the buildings. Access is controlled by building management. The meet me rooms range in size from a closet to 2,000 square feet depending on the building. The meet me rooms primarily are passive, with some having limited AC power. The tenants are responsible for their own cross connects. The furthest distance between any two meet me rooms is approximately 800 feet, so that route might go through three or four pull points, a basement, vault or handholes.

In early to mid 2001 Indy Telcom Center had 38 leases, most of which were national companies, and no vacancies. Today management feels very fortunate to have only a few vacancies (less than 10 percent). They expect there will be further consolidations, and Indy Telcom Center will continue to be one of the Midwest's, and the nation's, major telecommunications centers. So, if you need to get your network on track in Indianapolis, race on over to the Indy Telcom Center for a pit stop.

For more information on the Indy Telecom Center, contact Kent Hall at (317) 972-0849 or khall@indytelecom.com.

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.

Attributes of Carrier Hotel

Building size	12 buildings, 280,000 sq. ft. total
Union building	No
Building generator	None
Generator rooms for tenants	Yes, within their space
Roof access	Yes
Tenant conduit rights	Yes
Is there a building meet me room?	Yes, several
Is this MMR the featured site?	Yes

Attributes of the Interconnect Facilities

Facility Size	A closet to 2,000 sq. ft. varying within each building
Suite	N/A
AC Power Feed	Limited power by location
Generator	None
Control System	N/A
UPS	N/A
DC Plant	N/A
HVAC	None
Fire Suppression	Combination of wet and dry pipe in common spaces

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?	N/A
Is on-site technical support available 24/7/365?	No
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?	No
Can the customer perform the cross connect?	Yes
Are all cross connects tagged and inventoried?	No
Is there a shared fiber panel (MDF, CFDP)?	No
Can the customer bring and install its own fiber distribution panels?	Yes
Is there a shared COAX or copper panel?	No
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:

Management has constructed a conduit system interconnecting all 12 buildings. This conduit system can be utilized to interconnect carriers, or they can request to build new conduits between the sites.

The costs and availability are determined by:

For new builds the management determines the costs by distance and availability. For existing conduits the carriers run the interconnections themselves.