

Meet Me in St. Louis

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

By Hunter Newby

everybody who was anybody was at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. The same can be said of the Bandwidth Exchange Buildings.

The two Bandwidth Exchange Buildings at 210 North Tucker

In the award-winning Broadway musical Meet Me in St. Louis,

The two Bandwidth Exchange Buildings at 210 North Tucker Blvd. and 900 Walnut St. are owned and operated by Bandwidth Exchange Buildings, LLC as a single, 500,000-plus-square-foot facility. They are the primary carrier hotels and carrier interconnection facilities for St. Louis and the entire region. The two meet me rooms are connected by 432 strands of dark fiber, owned and maintained by the Buildings.

The Bandwidth Exchange Buildings are operated first and foremost as carrier hotels. Since the primary need of the tenants is that of interconnection to the other network-operating tenants, the owner has established a main interconnection point within each building. The 210 North Tucker meet me room is a passive interconnection-only facility, and the 900 Walnut meet me room is a full-service facility that is actually a former LayerOne site.

The meet me rooms are considered amenities that serve the buildings, so all carriers otherwise present in the buildings are

Carrier List 900 Walnut MMR

AT&T (local & long haul)

Broadwing

Charter Communications

Cogent/PSINet

ICG Communications

KMC Telecom

Level 3 Communications

Lightcore/CenturyTel

MCI - Intermedia

MCI - Local

MCI - Long Haul

MCI - UUNet

McLeod Communications

Missouri Network Associates

New Edge Networks

Qwest Communications

SBC

SBC Internet Services

Sprint

US Sonet

WilTel Communications

XO/Allegiance Telecom

Attributes of Carrier Hotel

	210 North Tucker	900 Walnut
Building size	410,000 sq. ft.	110,000 sq. ft.
Union building	N/A	N/A
Building generator	1 x 1.5-megawatt	3 x 1.5-megawatt
Generator rooms for tenants	Yes	Yes
Roof access	Yes	Yes
Tenant conduit rights	Yes	Yes
Is there a building meet me room?	Yes	Yes
Is this MMR the featured site?	Yes	Yes

provided rack space in the meet me rooms with no additional charge and with no recurring cross-connection fees. "Ensuring that every provider active in the region is only a cross connect away is what makes ours a unique and valuable facility," says Bob Guller, managing member of the Bandwidth Exchange Buildings. "Lowering

Attributes of the Interconnect English

barriers to carrier access while creating a secure, reliable environment is what we do best."

The Bandwidth Exchange Buildings feature a significant range of plug-and-play collocation options, from Web hosting/ collocation providers (Cybercon and Xiolink), enterprise IT outsourcers (Connectria), pure collocation facilities (Switch and Data) and a building-owned-and-

operated Class-A collocation facility. The Switch and Data facility at 210 North Tucker also acts as an active network element extension from the passive building meet me room for those that need more than just an interconnect.

In addition to attracting major telecom players, the Buildings owners also play matchmaker between providers and users of communications and bandwidth services. "You can't just bring everybody to the Fair, you have to get them dancing too," says Guller.

Attributes of the interconnect Facility				
	210 N. Tucker	900 Walnut		
Facility Size	2,500 sq. ft.	14,000 sq. ft.		
Suite	515	320 & 300		
AC Power Feed	Convenience outlets 110v, generator backed	2,400 amps 480 v, 3 Phase		
Generator	1.5-megawatt	Yes, on 2 building generators		
Control System	Standard	Yes		
UPS	No	Yes, 2 x 300 KVA, 1 x 150 KVA		
DC Plant	No	Yes, 3,200 KVA		
HVAC	Building HVAC	Yes, 8 x 20 tons		
Fire Suppression	Standard building	Dry pipe, pre-action		

Interconnection Guidelines

	210 N. Tucker	900 Walnut
Can customers order cross connects to any other meet area customer?	Yes	Yes
Is the average turnaround time for cross connects 48 hours or less?	N/A	Yes
Is on-site technical support available 24/7/365?	No	3 rd -party
Can customers access the site 24/7/365?	Yes	Yes
Can the technicians test and turn up circuits?	No	Yes
Does the meet area operator perform the cross connect?	No	No
Can the customer perform the cross connect?	Yes	Yes
Are all cross connects tagged and inventoried?	Yes	N/A
Is there a shared fiber panel (MDF, CFDP)?	No	Yes
Can the customer bring and install its own fiber distribution panels?	Yes	Yes
Is there a shared COAX or copper panel?	No	Yes
Can the customer bring and install its own COAX or copper panel?	Yes	Yes
Are there monthly recurring charges to cross connect in the meet area?	No	No

For carriers not in the meet areas (210 North Tucker and 900 Walnut), the interconnect options include:

Intra-city duct bank, multiple local loop and local dark fiber providers, building riser and building access licenses

The costs and availability are determined by:

Landlord negotiatons

The buildings are on multiple, underground power grids with six 1.5-megawatt generators and several small generator sets. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers designed one building, and both are near the incumbent primary central office. Both buildings also qualify for power discounts and various economic incentives. So if you are looking for a fair place to meet in St Louis, take a look at the Bandwidth Exchange Buildings.

For more information on the Bandwidth Exchange Buildings, please contact Bob Guller at (314) 621-1226 or RGuller@bandexch.com.

Hunter Newby is chief strategy officer of TELX . 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 24 O N. Tuolcon MAND

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KMC Telecom
Level 3 Communications
Lightcore/CenturyTel
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MCI - Long Haul
MCI - UUNet
McLeod Communications
New Edge Networks
Qwest Communications
SBC
SBC Internet Services
Strategic Technology Group

Tone Networks

Verio