BY HUNTER NEWBY

Meet Me in Miami

A continuing series examining the dominant "meet me" facilities in major North American cities

Miami is a hot place to be and not just because of its average daily temperatures, spicy foods or rich cultural mixes. It's also a hot spot for core network access. The market is one of the best examples of what facilities a gateway city normally possesses, and that helps to clarify the difference between a core interconnection facility and a data center or hosting facility. The state of Florida, having such an extensive coastline, with proximity to Caribbean islands and all of Central and Latin America, has natural advantages as a landing spot for many undersea cables. These cables come ashore all over the coast, but most of them backhaul to Miami. Miami is not just a city in Florida but also the key gateway to the Caribbean and Latin America.

Interestingly, Miami got a late start to the massive telecom infrastructure build-out game, since many of the undersea cables were not constructed when the insanity began. This pause created an opportunity for a world-class facility to be constructed from the ground up, literally sparing no expense. But, as you will see, the best money can buy in terms of a physical site does not always equate to the point of greatest multi-network access. Being "first to market," whether accidentally or not, sometimes means everything. "Better," as Dagda Mor says, "to be lucky rather than smart." As is the case in any site selection, new entrants must go to where the fiber already is.

For all that Miami has to offer, there are two locations with mature interconnection facilities that usually come up in discussions. They are the LayerOne facility at 36 Northeast 2nd St. and the NAP of the Americas at the Technology Center of the Americas (TECOTA). Aside from these two well-known interconnection facility operators, there are a few other carrier hotel buildings, such as 100 North Biscayne, and other sites in Miami with a dense multi-network presence.

The "right" choice isn't about which is the better building or site, in a mechanical sense. It really depends on what an incoming network operator needs. If you need a data center, you go to one. If you need a cabinet and two connections, you can go almost anywhere, but the key difference between a building with a meet point of some kind and one without is the ease of interconnection and the maximization of a single interconnect point. As always, this reduces the need for multiple home run cables and demarcation points, which create inventory and points of failure issues.

There is a great deal that can be said about both LayerOne and the NAP. The history of the NAP and the type of facility in terms of construction could take up pages, but what is particularly interesting about the NAP is that it is a core interconnection facility for major transport networks and a major Internet network access point. This is the only site in the entire "Meet Me" series that is both in one. That says a lot about it, as well as the clear difference between all of the other major core sites in North America and the Internet MAEs (metropolitan area exchanges), NAPs and sites such as Equinix and PAIX. The core interconnection points of the major transport and legacy time division multiplex voice networks are not the same as the core Internet points. The fact that the NAP is both ties back into the fact that Miami got a late start, and they were able to plan the convergence.

LayerOne provides a highly dense point of interconnection for the market. It does not manage as much physical space as the NAP, but if you do not require a large footprint, this is a good location to explore. In either case, these are a couple of the best sites around in the Miami market.

For more information on NAP of the Americas, Inc. (a Terremark Worldwide company), contact Joshua Snow Horn, director, at (305) 808-5214 or jhorn@terremark.com.

For more information on LayerOne, call (214) 752-6204 or check out www.layerone.com.

Hunter Newby is chief strategy officer of TELx. Reader suggestions for cities to be covered in this series should be sent to Hunter at hnewby@telx.com.

Attributes of the Meet Me Room / Interconnect Facility

	LayerOne	NAP of the Americas
Facility size	Aggregate 18,100 sq. ft.	150,000 sq. ft.
Suite	1st Floor suite 100, 5th floor suite 550	Entire 2nd floor
AC power feed	800 amp 480V service	24,000 amps at 480V (power is 2N+1+1 – the NAP is fed from redundant substations with six 13.2 feeds)
Generator	500 KVA, 750 KVA	6 – 2.2 Megawatt Hitech CPS flywheel generators
Control system	Prowatch	HiTech
UPS	375 KVA and 100 KVA	None – The NAP uses a CPS system
DC plant	Helios Growth to 10,000A – eight hour battery back	Marconi Rectifiers
HVAC	N+1 Airflow and Liebert units	3N+1 chilled water system using 46 – 30-ton air handlers
Fire suppression	Kiddie FM 200 system, Viking dry-pipe system	Pre-action dry-pipe fire suppression

Carrier Lists

LayerOne	
Abovenet	ICG Telecom Group, Inc.
AccelerateBiz Inc.	IDS Telecom, LLC
ACSI	Impsat USA
Aleron Broadband Services	INN Wireless
AmNet US	ITC^Deltacom
BellSouth	Latamnap, Inc.
Braslink Network Inc.	Latinode
Broadwing Communications	Level 3 Communications
BTI	MCI Worldcom
Cable & Wireless	Merchant Central
Cable Onda	Metropolitan Fiber Systems of Florida
Call Center Telemarketing Pro-Panama, SA	Neopolitan Networks
Cogent Communications	Next Holdings Group
Data Management Group	NiuTech
Data Wave	OnFiber Communications
Davies, Inc.	Progress Telecom
Digital Isles, Inc.	Qwest Communications
Dynegy/360 Networks	ServerOutsource.NET
Electronic Network Holdings	StarnetUSA
EPIK Communications	Telecarrier Inc.
e-Xpedient	Telefonica Data USA
First Cash Reserve, LLC	Tyco Telecommunications (US)
FPL FiberNet	Verizon Global Solutions
Genuity Solutions	Webhosting.net
Giant Nerds	Williams Communications
Giant Technologies	XO Communications
Global Crossing	Xpedius Communications
Grande Communications	Yipes Enterprise Services
Happy Empire, Inc.	

NAP of the Americas	
AT&T	E-xpedius
WorldCom/MCI	Onfiber
Level3	BellSouth
Sprint	Global Crossing
XO	Progress Telecom
360 Networks	FPL FiberNET
ACSI (DARK)	Adelphia Communications
MFN (DARK)	Telcove
EPIK Communications	

Attributes of Carrier Hotel

	36 NE 2nd	TECOTA
Building size	7 Stories, 162,150 RSF	750,000 sq. ft.
Union building	No	No
Building generator	Yes	Base building generator is 2.2 Megawatts
Generator rooms for tenants	Yes	Building has facilities to accommodate 30 – 2.2 Megawatt Gensets
Roof access	Yes, 65-foot and 100-foot towers	120,000 sq. ft. of roof space available to tenants on a pro-rata basis
Tenant conduit rights	Yes	384 – 4-inch conduits (48 –4-inch conduits in eight separate diverse shafts from the curb and gutter to the NAP or Tenant floor)
Is there a meet me room?	Yes	Yes, the NAP of the Americas on the 2nd floor is the meet-point-room for the building
Is this MMR the featured site?	Yes	The NAP is the dedicated meet-point room and the marquee site/tenant within the building

Interconnection Guidelines

	LayerOne	NAP of the Americas
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?	72 hours	Yes
Is on-site technical support available 24/7/365?	Yes	Yes
Can customers access the site 24/7/365?	Yes	Yes
Can the technicians test and turn up circuits?	Yes	Yes
Does the meet area operator perform the cross connect?	Yes	Yes
Can the customer perform the cross connect?	No	No
Are all cross connects tagged and inventoried?	Yes	Yes
Is there a shared fiber panel (MDF, CFDP)?	Yes	Yes
Can the customer bring and install its own fiber distribution panels?	Yes, per LayerOne standards	No
Is there a shared COAX or copper panel?	Yes	Yes
Can the customer bring and install its own COAX or copper panel?	Yes, per LayerOne standards	No
Are there monthly recurring charges to cross connect in the meet area?	Yes	Yes

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

LayerOne	All connections in LayerOne facilities are provisioned at the LayerOne MDF. LayerOne has built a diverse vertical riser system that allows it to access service providers on other floors. LayerOne uses this riser to place its owned equipment in provider POPs.
NAP of the Americas	All interconnections transit the meet me rooms or the peering core. This includes carriers with backbone and users of those services. Each customer must use intra-facility cables to connect their space to the MMR and then must purchase the appropriate cross connect to their business partner. Only one side pays for the cross connect.

The costs and availability are determined by:

LayerOne	MRCs are and NRCs have been standardized. When a certain threshold is reached, capacity will be augmented.
NAP of the Americas	MRCs and NRCs based on the medium and speed of the cross connect requested