



UTC Region 1&2 Combined Meeting
September 26 – 28, 2023
Hilton Inner Harbor ~ Baltimore, MD

Preliminary Agenda

Tuesday, September 26th

11:00 AM	Meeting Registration
1:00 – 1:15 PM	Welcome Remarks
1:15 – 2:15 PM	UTC Leadership Presentation & Advocacy Report
2:15 – 3:15 PM	Private LTE 101: What is it? How is it used? Why Utilities need it? How can Utilities capitalize it? (i.e. Leasing)
3:15 – 3:45 PM	Networking Break
3:45 – 4:45 PM	AMI Network & IoT integrations
5:00 – 7:00 PM	Networking Reception with Exhibitors
7:00 PM	Reception in Executive Lounge overlooking Camden Yards

Wednesday, September 27th

7:00 AM	Registration & Breakfast
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Regulatory Compliance: Contracting Private LTE for Utilities (Leasing vs Licensing)
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Case Study: IoT application upgrades due to LTE & 5G network improvements Smart Meters, Types of Grid Infrastructures
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Networking Break
10:30 – 11:30 AM	6GHz interference, mitigation practices, and future of microwave for utilities
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Networking Lunch with Exhibitors
1:00 – 2:30 PM	Grounding Session

What is "ground" anyway? There are several types of ground, each with unique uses. Many will be discussed, along with their pros and cons. Emphasis will be placed on how various grounds might be used, in different applications, to protect either people, property, or equipment, or all three.

Speaker: Jerry Hogan, Director of Engineering & Marketing - Solara Technical Sales

2:30 – 3:00 PM Networking Break

3:00 – 4:00 PM Expanding Licensed Spectrum Options for Private 4G & 5G Utility Networks

The availability of spectrum and technology options for private wireless networks has expanded rapidly over the last few years. This rapid expansion enables, for the first time, utilities the opportunity to assess several carrier-grade broadband spectrum solutions that can be deployed strategically alongside, or in lieu of, networks that rely exclusively on narrowband/wideband spectrum solutions. These innovative options allow utilities to reduce operating costs while increasing reliability, efficiency and security of operations.

This session will describe several bands that can meet utility private network needs – and are included in 4G and/or 5G standards. Relevant wireless use cases will be described along with the relationship between key applications and spectrum selection. This focus of this session will be on bands that are frequently offered in the secondary market, including:

- 600 MHz / Band 71
- 700 MHz / Band 103¹
- 800 MHz / Band 26
- 900 MHz / Band 106
- 1670-1675 MHz / Band 54
- 3.5 GHz (CBRS) / Band 48

Topics will include 3GPP standards status, MHz (capacity) available, duplexing technology, geographic availability, authorized power levels, propagation comparisons, and availability of base station and remote devices relevant to utilities.

Presenter: Robert Finch, President - Select Spectrum

4:00 – 4:30 PM Regional Meeting – Utilities Only

This meeting is closed to individuals who are not considered core members of UTC.

5:00 PM Reception in Executive Lounge overlooking Camden Yards

Thursday, September 28th

8:00 Registration & Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00 AM Futureproofing Dial up Access to Shared Resources

This presentation will look at how legacy technologies are continuing to provide easy, secure access to shared resources such as metering between utilities. This has long been an issue under today's NERC/CIP regulations and is now being extended to managing shared metering information between utilities and Private Power Producers as renewable energy locations are connected to the grid. It will use two different use cases that use the dial-up line sharing equipment TelTone SLSS which has been the preferred solution. However, as a legacy solution it is becoming increasingly difficult to repair and obtain spare parts to maintain these systems.

¹ 4G & 5G NB-IoT only, does not support broadband modulation

Onyx Spectrum Technology acquired the rights to the TelTone product line in 2022 and is now addressing obsolescence concerns by developing a next generation version of the TelTone products that will match the existing legacy capabilities and add next generation IP and security features to address future requirements and network migration. We are listening to utilities and are integrating the capabilities utilities need to continue to move forward with secure line steering or line sharing activities while positioning you for IP network connections.

Speaker: Harper Anderton, VP Business Development & Strategic Planning - OnyxSpectrum Technology

10:00 – 10:30 AM Networking Break

10:30 – 11:30 AM Fiber strategies and innovation for utility communications

11:30AM – 12:00 PM Round Table Discussion & Wrap-up