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Monday, February 12, 2001

Today's report from Web Editor [Susan Rush](#)

- [Tauzin Supports Powell's Deregulation View](#)
- [SCM Hits Wireless Broadband Market](#)
- [Robot Gives Sewers High-Speed Life](#)
- [Broadband Briefs](#)

Tauzin Supports Powell's Deregulation View

It's the fifth anniversary of the [Telecommunications Act of 1996](#), and the debate about its effectiveness rages on. Last week newly appointed FCC Chairman Michael Powell called for the Commission to take a hands-off approach to regulation in the telecom industry, and House Commerce Committee Chairman Billy Tauzin agrees.

Roadblocks created by the FCC over the past five years are stifling competition in the broadband marketplace, according to Congressman Tauzin. "For the most part, the Act has been a catalyst for change and competition. But, clearly, a lack of high-speed broadband services in this country is now threatening to stifle e-commerce and our New Age economy," said Tauzin in a written statement. "If [Congress] made one mistake in 1996, it's that we did not reform the FCC at the same time we reformed the law."

He believes the Act should be revised to remove some of the government-imposed limitations, including restrictions on the number of cable customers a company can control, long-distance service area limitations and wireless spectrum usage restrictions. "The [FCC] has created roadblocks to competition in both the telephone and broadband markets. My goal is to remove those roadblocks and create true competition," said Tauzin.

To find out more about Congressman Tauzin's views on the Telecommunications Act and other telecom-related issues, log on to *Wireless Week*, which is owned by the same parent as *Broadband Week*, to participate in a live [online chat](#) on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 12 p.m. EST.

Related Story:
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SCM Hits Wireless Broadband Market

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Cahners In-Stat Research Highlights

Streaming Media Server Sales to Hit Nearly \$1.4 Billion in 2005

Streaming media is taking off and will drive the market for servers that deliver multimedia signals from the edges of the Internet to nearly \$1.4 billion in 2005, according to [Cahners In-Stat Group](#). Every major brokerage house and prominent companies such as Intel regularly provide streaming audio and video on their Web sites and many more companies will follow suit over the next several years. That means a hot market for streaming media technology and far richer Internet experiences for users.

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BridgeWave Communications attempts to extend the reach of broadband wireless networks with its Signal Code Modulation (SCM) technology. The patent-pending technology makes use of available bandwidth from fixed Millimeter-wave wireless.

According to BridgeWave, SCM technology marries the large bandwidth capability of MMW wireless with widely deployed broadband access technologies. "Our challenge was to develop a solution that could enable service providers to expand their market penetration without changing their existing networks," explains Amir Makleff, BridgeWave's president and CEO.

How it works: SCM samples an incoming signal and divides it into separate digital and analog components. The digital component is an approximation of the waveform. The analog component carries the difference of the digital component and the sample. The detailed analog sample is multiplied to use the full range of the original signal. This multiplication factor strengthens the fine detail, making it tolerant to the noise encountered with wireless transmission. The modulated digital and analog signals are interleaved and transmitted over an expanded frequency range to increase the robustness of the signal.

Scientific-Atlanta is one of BridgeWave's first customers. S-A plans to use the SCM technology with its hybrid fiber-coax (HFC) products to tap into the small- and medium-sized business market. "BridgeWave's SCM technology is fully transparent to DOCSIS cable data traffic that's deployed over our HFC transmission equipment," says Paul Connolly, vice president of marketing and architectures at S-A.

[Return to headlines](#) ▲

Robot Gives Sewers High-Speed Life

Are sewers set to be the next on-ramp to the Information Super Highway? Can fiber-optic cable be installed without digging up the street? Can a robot change the broadband industry? [Stream Intelligent Networks Corp.](#) hopes so. The broadband service provider has licensed technology that enables a robot to wire cities for high-speed Internet access by laying fiber-optic cable in sewers.

By installing cable using the robot, known as STAR (Sewer Telecommunications Access by Robot), installation costs can be cut by about one-third and is up to eight times faster than traditional street digging methods, according to Franco Lofranco, Stream's co-founder.

The robot, which is about six-foot long and is equipped with five cameras to monitor operations from a command truck, can lay up to 2,400 feet of fiber-optic cable per day. Once the robot is fed into a manhole, the robot drills holes

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in the pipe wall and fastens the cable using tie-bolts. The robot is being dubbed as an alternative to traditional trench digging methods since it navigates through existing sewer systems. Stream is licensing the technology from K-botics Fiber Systems.

STAR was first deployed in the Mississauga, Canada area during a pilot program last November. Stream is currently in discussions with three or four major carriers in Canada, and is looking to expand into the United States, according to Lofanco.

Related Stories:

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[Return to headlines](#) ▲

Broadband Briefs:

- [Verizon Communications](#) names [Lucent Technologies](#) as a supplier of optical systems, data products, software and services for its global broadband network linking the United States with cities in Europe, Asia and Latin America.
- [Massana](#) Inc. adopts a new strategy to deliver silicon for the broadband market. The company will initially offer silicon products, including high-performance, low-power solutions for switches, routers, network interface cards and network attached storage applications, geared at the Gigabit Ethernet-over-copper market. The company also opened a design center in Madrid to further develop and implement its Gigabit Ethernet transceiver product line.
- [Marconi Mobile](#) SpA teams with [ArrayComm](#) to develop third-generation (W-CDMA) wireless infrastructure for UMTS. Marconi plans to implement ArrayComm's IntelliCell software, which enables 'smart antennas' to direct signals to and from individual users, into its 3G base stations.
- North Carolina-based Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. plans to offer DSL service to 40,000 subscribers via [CommWorks](#) Corp.'s Total Control 500 DSL Access Concentrator. The Total Control 500 DSL Concentrator delivers 700 Kbps connectivity to customers located five miles away from the concentrator.
- Telecom resource management software provider [Schema](#) Ltd. has raised \$25.8 million in third round venture capital financing. The company plans to use the funds to support its growing domestic and international presence, as well as sales, marketing and new product development.
- [Ericsson](#) and [Extreme Networks](#) plan to deliver broadband Internet access to residents in Sweden via an Ethernet network.

[Return to headlines](#) ▲

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