



Welcome to the UBBA Knowledge Center

Explore our library of news, articles, videos and more on utility connectivity and the need for private broadband networks. UBBA is here to help you gain an understanding of the issues and keep up with advances in these innovative solutions.

[UBBA In the News](#)
[Press Releases](#)
[Webinars](#)
[Industry Resources](#)
[Blog](#)
[Podcasts](#)

UBBA In the News



T&D World: Summit Addresses Importance of Private Broadband for Grid Modernization

Oct 24, 2019

In support of America's transforming critical infrastructure, the Utility Broadband Alliance (UBBA) is dedicated to advancing and developing private LTE broadband as key communications infrastructure for a secure, resilient, digital grid. Launched as a utility member-driven organization in February 2019, UBBA founding member Southern Linc hosted UBBA's first annual summit in Birmingham, Alabama earlier this month where utility executives, ...



Smart Energy International: The importance of private broadband for grid modernisation

Oct 18, 2019

In support of America's transforming critical infrastructure, the Utility Broadband Alliance (UBBA) has been advancing and developing private long-term evolution (LTE) broadband as a key communications infrastructure for a secure, resilient, digital grid. UBBA founding member Southern Linc hosted the UBBA's first annual summit in Birmingham, Alabama early October, where utility executives, industry technology leaders along with representatives from...



Daily Energy Insider: Utility Broadband Alliance hosts summit to address key industry challenges

Oct 18, 2019

The Utility Broadband Alliance (UBBA) hosted a two-day summit for utility executives and industry technology leaders to explore key challenges facing electric utilities. © Shutterstock The summit, which was held in Birmingham, Ala., focused on a range of topics, including resiliency and cybersecurity in the digital utility grid of the future, broadband spectrum options, and...



The UBBA's First Steps

Sep 18, 2019

Bobbi Harris, member engagement and operations lead at the Utility Broadband Alliance (UBBA), discusses how her organisation came to be and what's next for it and its members.



Utility Broadband Alliance priorities and focus

Aug 29, 2019

Following a soft launch in February at DISTRIBUTECH, membership of the Utility Broadband Alliance (UBBA) has grown to 19 member organisations, all working hard to formulate the Alliance working groups and overall Alliance focus.



Utility Broadband Alliance chases LTE, challenges MNOs

Aug 16, 2019

Founded back in January, the Utility Broadband Alliance (UBBA) is a US-centric organization that is pursuing private wireless broadband, specifically LTE, for utility applications.



Power Brokers: Utilities Explore Their Role in 4G & 5G



New Private LTE Group Focuses on Business Case. Technology for Utilities



Reasons Behind 6.8% Increase in IoT Devices for Oil and Gas

Aug 2, 2019

5G is certainly all the rage right now, so it's no surprise that some of the nation's biggest utility companies are working to figure out whether they have a role to play in the space. However, it's unclear whether that role will position utilities as 5G operators, customers or both.



The Installed Base of Wireless IoT Devices in the Oil and Gas Industry Reached 1.3 Million in 2018

Apr 8, 2019

According to a new research report from the M2M/IoT analyst firm Berg Insight, the number of devices featuring cellular or satellite connectivity deployed in oil and gas applications amounted to 1.3 million at the end of 2018.



Utilities, Tech Firms Form Alliance for Private Industrial IoT Networks

Feb 5, 2019

A group of companies representing telecom equipment vendors, spectrum licensees and utilities have formed an alliance to advance the development of private broadband networks for energy providers. The Utility Broadband Alliance (UBBA) includes 13 founding companies that want to drive modernization efforts in the nation's grid and other industrial IoT applications.



pdvWireless, Southern Linc Ally on Private Broadband for Utilities

Jan 17, 2019

pdvWireless and Southern Linc partnered to form an alliance of utilities and vendors that will become a hub of information sharing, collaboration and planning to assist the development of private wireless broadband networks owned by and dedicated to utilities.

Jul 12, 2019

The Utilities Broadband Alliance (UBBA), formed earlier this year and spearheaded by founding member Anterix, formerly pdvWireless, is addressing the business case for private Long Term Evolution (LTE) networks for utilities, along with use cases and technology considerations.



Smart Energy International – Utility Broadband Alliance and the Mandate to Ensure Reliable Communications

Apr 7, 2019



pdvWireless Refocuses on 900 MHz Spectrum Leasing, Forms New Utility Alliance

Feb 5, 2019

Morgan O'Brien's pdvWireless continues to evolve with an updated business model that includes leasing the company's 900 MHz spectrum and consulting on private Long Term Evolution (LTE) as it continues to await an FCC decision on its more than four-year-old plan to realign the 900 MHz band for broadband operations.

Apr 18, 2019

The number of devices featuring cellular or satellite connectivity deployed in oil and gas applications is expected to reach 1.9 million units by 2023 from 1.3 million at the end of 2018.



Utility Industry Leaders Join to Champion Private Broadband Networks

Apr 3, 2019

United in advancing the development and adoption of dedicated wireless broadband networks for utilities, a diverse group of power providers, technology innovators and industry leaders are establishing the Utility Broadband Alliance.



Utility Broadband Alliance to Provide a Powerful Industry Advantage

Jan 18, 2019

pdvWireless has announced that Southern Linc will serve as a founding member of an alliance of utilities and vendors that will become a hub of information sharing, collaboration and planning. The aim is to assist the development of private wireless broadband networks owned by and dedicated to utilities.

Press Releases



Utility Industry Leaders Applaud FCC 900 MHz Decision

May 20, 2020

In support of America's transforming critical infrastructure, the members of the Utility Broadband Alliance (UBBA) appreciate Chairman Pai and the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) decision to make spectrum available for utilities to maintain critical infrastructure.



pdvWireless Adds Southern Linc to Broadband Network Alliance for Utilities

Jan 17, 2019

pdvWireless, Inc. announced that Southern Company subsidiary Southern Linc will serve as a founding member of an alliance of utilities and vendors that will become a hub of information sharing, collaboration and planning to assist the development of private wireless broadband networks owned by and dedicated to utilities.

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2019 UBBA Summit – Powering Utilities with Private Broadband Networks

Oct 16, 2019

In support of America's transforming critical infrastructure, the Utility Broadband Alliance (UBBA) is dedicated to advancing and developing private LTE broadband as key communications infrastructure for a secure, resilient, digital grid.



Utility Industry Leaders Join New Alliance to Champion Private Broadband Networks for Critical Infrastructure

Feb 4, 2019

Utility Broadband Alliance (UBBA) to become hub of information sharing, collaboration and planning to advance dedicated wireless connectivity for an increasingly interconnected and distributed grid.

Webinars



Technology Opportunities from the 900 MHz Realignment to Enable Utility Private Broadband Deployment

Jun 24, 2020

On May 13th, the FCC unanimously confirmed the Report & Order to move forward with process of realigning the 900 MHz spectrum to enable utility



Opportunities and Impacts of the FCC Decision to Transition the 900 MHz Band for Utilities to Enable Broadband Deployment

Jun 3, 2020

On May 13, 2020 the FCC approved the use of the 900 MHz spectrum to enable utility



Technology Considerations for Utility Private Broadband

Jan 23, 2020

This webinar, sponsored by UBBA, brings together utility and technology leaders to share their experiences and knowledge on considerations for utility private broadband infrastructure. This

regarding the 300 MHz spectrum to enable utility broadband. This webinar brings the perspective of key utility industry technology experts to discuss what their organizations are doing to support utilities during this transition. Hear from technology leaders Motorola Solutions, Sierra Wireless, Ericsson, Nokia and Anterix.

MHz band by utility companies for private LTE. Five utility members of the Utility Broadband Alliance (UBBA) will share their thoughts on this decision in a panel discussion. The UBBA is dedicated to assisting its members in planning, designing and deploying secure, reliable and resilient private broadband networks.

... discussion will include the key technological considerations for a private utility broadband initiative, focusing on areas of infrastructure, spectrum, devices and standards. Speakers include: Alan McIntyre (Southern Linc), Kreg Christoff (Motorola Solutions), Warren Westrup (Sierra Wireless), and Mark Poulin (Anterix).



Opportunities for Utility Private Broadband Networks

Oct 9, 2019

This webinar, sponsored by UBBA, brings together utility and technology leaders to share their experiences on broadband infrastructure and looks at the following key areas: understanding the business opportunities and industry challenges that utilities must take into consideration; real utility drivers and solutions for private broadband; technology, spectrum and use cases.

Industry Resources



Use Case: Fire Mitigation

Jul 22, 2020

The latest urgent issue for electric utilities is fire prevention. Powerline-caused wildfires puts a utility and their customers at a tremendous risk both financially and more importantly threatens their safety and security. Using a combination of fault indicators that report status, and remote controlled reclosers and sectionalizers, a utility can quickly isolate and de-energize the damaged circuits, thus minimizing the chances of creating a fire.



Cybersecurity: Benefits of a Private LTE Network

Nov 25, 2019

See The Whitepaper Utilities and their customers have been focused on electric service reliability since the first systems were installed. Today, the electric grid is growing more complex as we add electrical loads and generation in places not anticipated in the original grid designs. Our very own Cybersecurity working group that is comprised of thought...



The Urgent Need for a Licensed Broadband Spectrum Allocation for Critical Infrastructure

Apr 18, 2019

More than 3,000 electric utilities across the US are each managing multiple—sometimes more than a dozen—wireless networks in support of grid operations, workforce management, and customer service. Typically, these networks have been developed in an ad hoc manner for application-centric purposes.



Private LTE Broadband Changes the Game for Utilities

Apr 18, 2019

The electric utility business is fundamentally more



Keeping the Lights On with Dedicated LTE

Apr 12, 2019

A case study of how Southern Linc, the wireless communications network backed by the strength and



Power Grids, Meet Strong Networks

Apr 12, 2019

We're on the verge of a very different world for utilities as they face a dramatic business and

complex today than it was even five years ago: once primarily the supplier of centrally-produced power, the utility is now the master orchestrator of a multitude of distributed energy resources. Enabling the modern grid requires a solid foundation of certain strategic technologies, including private wireless broadband communications.

reliability of Southern Company, transitioned to a highly reliable LTE network while meeting strict security requirements.

technological transformation. Power, communications, transportation, infrastructure and even public safety are becoming interconnected and interdependent as utilities develop the intelligent grid.

Blog



Interview with Allen Tharp
Manager, Network Strategy at Xcel Energy
Chair, UBBA's Use Cases Working Group

Interview with Allen Tharp, Senior Manager – Network Strategy, at Xcel Energy and chair of the Utility Broadband Alliance's (UBBA) Use Cases working group

Jul 24, 2019

I started my career working at Motorola installing wireless systems as a field engineer/project leader, and I later returned to serve as a systems engineer manager for worldwide deployments. I also worked at Southern Linc as a senior engineer and later as Manager of Technology Development. Between these Southern Linc roles, I worked at Sprint as a network design manager and for the past 10 years, I worked at Duke Energy in a variety of roles, the last of which was a technology evaluation manager. Now, I'm at Xcel Energy as a Senior Manager over network strategy and planning in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Interview with Craig Tedrow
Sr. Product Manager, GE's Grid Solutions Business
Vice Chair, UBBA's Business Working Group

Interview with Craig Tedrow, Senior Product Manager at GE's Grid Solutions Business, and vice-chair of the Utility Broadband Alliance's (UBBA) Business working group

Jul 15, 2019

I am a Senior Product Manager, within GE's industrial communications product line, working for the MDS wireless group. My education is in electrical engineering at Geneva College, and I've spent 21 years executing software design and firmware development. Most of that was here at MDS doing wireless product design and development focused on the energy and industrial industries.

Podcasts



2019 UBBA Summit

May 5, 2020

This short podcast includes highlights of Tami's Keynote, which covered areas such as Southern Linc's needs that brought them to the decision to stand up a Private Network and their experience doing so.



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