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Catching Up With the News

I thought I was up to date with all the FTTH news – until I started compiling the FTTH Top 100 list.

One thing I enjoy about compiling the FTTH Top 100 list is catching up with the news of the past year. Despite spending nearly all day, every day, reading and writing about fiber to the home, I still miss some interesting stories. Keeping up with the fiber-to-the-home industry has become more than a full-time job.

Here are just a few things I learned about this year's Top 100 winners (in alphabetical order):

- Responding to the need for middle-mile fiber, Atlantic Engineering Group, a design and engineering firm, established a new subsidiary, Atlantic Fiber Networks, to construct middle-mile and dark fiber networks on a build-to-own basis.
- To accommodate networks in transition, Charles Industries introduced a line of universal enclosures for distributing fiber, copper and coaxial cables.
- Even though some large telcos are selling wireline assets to focus on their wireless networks, Cincinnati Bell made the opposite decision: It sold its wireless spectrum licenses to focus its efforts on the efficient deployment of FTTH.
- For customers who just can't wait an extra millisecond for a Web page to load, Pavlov Media introduced WebSnap – a set of traffic

management techniques that enable fast Web page loading through superfast blasts of service – and hosted a root domain name server on its network.

- Sonic, the ISP that pioneered low-cost gigabit service, has now reduced its gigabit tier to \$40 per month – which must be one of the best deals anywhere.
- City dwellers hoping for FTTH in their neighborhoods will be glad to hear about Vermeer's new D23x30 S3 Navigator horizontal directional drill, which was designed for congested areas and is one of the quietest drills on the market.

The FTTH Top 100 feature in this month's issue (p. 26) is packed full of useful information about the key players in the fiber-to-the-home ecosystem, from service providers to vendors, distributors and consultants – as well as the nonprofits that do so much to raise awareness about fiber to the home and about the need for better bandwidth. They've all been busy in the last year moving the industry forward. Take a look at the list for yourself and find out what you've missed.

Congratulations to all the 2015 Top 100! ❖

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