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# PRESS RELEASE

## Deploying Fiber-to-the-Antenna Increases Need for Certified Technicians

*Mobile network bandwidth demands continue to increase, driving fiber deeper and higher into the radio network. Due to the demand for certified technicians, ETA<sup>®</sup> International will host Fiber to the Antenna (FTTA) training.*

**Greencastle, February 19, 2015:** The FTFA hands-on training will cover the challenges of deploying reliable fiber to the antenna, for radio interface standards like common public radio interface and open base station architecture initiative. The FTFA workshop will be offered March 16 and 17 at ETA International's Education Forum 2015, which will be co-located with IWCE in Las Vegas, NV. To register, please visit [www.iwceexpo.com](http://www.iwceexpo.com) and select the workshop from the 'A-La-Carte' menu.

Newer and more powerful mobile devices are the driving force behind this bandwidth growth. As a result, mobile network operators are racing to implement new technologies, such as LTE, to satisfy these requirements to deploy fiber.

With digital interfaces, fiber is preferred over coaxial cable due to higher bandwidth, better reliability and less weight. Fiber also allows the separation of the BBU and RRU, giving mobile operators the ability to rethink how they deploy their system.

Mobile traffic growth will continue to drive innovation in the RAN. FTFA will play a critical role as operators look to reduce cost and improve performance. Effectively testing the physical layer during installation and deployment is essential for lowering maintenance cost and improving network reliability.

The network operates from the Radio Frequency side in the same manner as a cellular telephone network: comprised of a main switch, a backhaul network connecting cells, cell sites and subscriber devices. From the network side, it is an all Internet Protocol (IP) solution and does not have the circuit switched 'voice' channel as with trunked Land Mobile Radio or 2G and 3G cellular systems. The LTE system has a lofty goal of achieving 10 GB/s data transfer rates between a subscriber device and the user's target application.

The deployment of fiber will be a benefit to public safety communications when additional mobile cell site units are brought to use in disaster recovery incidents.

ETA's Fiber to the Antenna (FTTA) certification is for site integrators, contractors and construction companies who install fiber optic cables at wireless and cellular facilities. How to prepare and install pre-terminated fiber cable assemblies on the tower, how to test fiber after installation and how to identify problems during and after installation will be taught at Education Forum 2015. Basic fiber safety and optical transmission theory are also covered. Core concepts such as fiber optic cable types, modes, construction, installation maintenance and testing will also be covered. This certification includes a hands-on component with a focus on the carrier Method of Procedure (MOP).

Thomas Bonner, Ph.D., an ETA-approved training provider, will instruct attendees in the FTTA workshop. Bonner has over 20 separate certifications in fiber optic instruction, teaching courses for AT&T, 3M, OFS, Lucent Technologies and JDSU.

Get FTTA hands-on training from top industry experts at Education Forum and IWCE this March in Las Vegas. Learn about other training workshops leading to ETA certification, professional development sessions and social networking events at [www.educationforum.com](http://www.educationforum.com) and [www.iwce.com](http://www.iwce.com).

**About ETA** - Since 1978, ETA has issued over 150,000 professional certifications. Widely recognized and frequently used in worker job selection, hiring processes, pay increases, and advancements, ETA certifications are often required as companies bid on contracts. ETA's certifications are personal and travel with the individual, regardless of employment or status change and measure competencies of persons, not products or vendors. All ETA certifications are accredited through the International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC) and align with the ISO-17024 standard. [www.eta-i.org](http://www.eta-i.org)

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