



Regional Fiber Connect

February 7, 2023
Raleigh, NC
Hilton Raleigh North Hills
2023 Agenda

7:15 AM

Registration Open, sponsored by Wesco

7:15AM – 8:00AM

Networking Breakfast with Exhibitors, sponsored by Arista Networks

8:00AM – 8:07AM

Welcome & Introduction

- Gary Bolton, President and CEO, FBA
- Joseph “JJ” Jones, President, OnTrac, FBA Chairman

8:07AM – 8:10AM

Platinum Sponsor Welcome & Introductions

- Abdala Kheireddine, Business Development Director, Adva/Adtran

8:10AM – 8:50AM

Workforce Development: Building Tomorrow’s Fiber Teams Today

As we head into the largest fiber investment cycle in history, the technical workforce required to ensure homes can be connected needs to be developed. FBA, its members, and the industry in general, have created programs to address this challenge but more needs to be done. This panel will discuss current plans and how they can be expanded, what’s missing, and the role of local stakeholders in the process.

Moderator: Mark Boxer, Technical Manager, OFS, FBA Board Member

Panelists:

- Sachin Gupta, Director of Government Business & Economic Development, Centranet
- Ryan Graham, PE, Director, Plant Engineering, HTC
- Will Aycock, General Manager, Greenlight

8:50AM – 9:20AM

Fireside Chat with Nate Denny, Deputy Secretary for Broadband and Digital Equity, NC Department of Information Technology Division

Moderated by Marissa Mitrovich, Vice President of Public Policy, Fiber Broadband Association

9:20AM – 10:00AM

Building and Sustaining Customer Experience: Measurements that Matter

As homes get smarter, and applications more capacity and latency dependent, fiber broadband provides the only scalable option to ensure services can be delivered and consumed as intended by the content and application providers, but more importantly as consumers expect. What are the measurements that need to be measured as applications scale and more services are layered onto

home networks, many running at the same time, and the old model of peak time obsolete.

Moderator: Kimberly McKinley, CMO, Utopia Fiber, FBA Board Member

Panelists:

- Jeffrey A. Manning, Vice President Product and Network Strategy, Shentel
- Jeff Brown, Senior Director, Segment Marketing, Calix
- Joseph “JJ” Jones, President, OnTrac, FBA Chairman

10:00AM – 10:30AM Networking Break with Exhibitors, sponsored by The Broadband Group

10:30AM – 11:15AM The Community Connection: How Fiber Impacts Economics and Opportunity
As the industry moves to close the Digital Equity Gap, what does this mean for local stakeholders in terms of economic impact and opportunity? What role does fiber play in improving GDP, creating job opportunities, and new business development. What impact can it have on education, community services and home prices, and does fiber present the best catalyst for growth as local operators decide what technology to leverage with BEAD funding? At the heart of it is, does an option other than fiber equate to a decision to potentially leave a community behind?

Moderator: Heather Burnette Gold, Vice President, External Affairs, Mears Group Inc, Broadband Division

Panelists:

- Jess George, Head of Government and Community Affairs, Southeast, Google Fiber
- Andrew Stevenson, Director, Market Development, Lumos Fiber
- Amol S. Naik, SVP - Public Policy & Community Engagement, Ting Internet

11:15AM – 12:00PM Deployment Challenges and Opportunities: Taking Fiber Further
As BEAD funds become available, operators will be taking fiber broadband to places it has not gone before. Given technology advances, how can operators best move fiber from homes passed to homes connected? This panel will discuss the role that various deployment scenarios will require as the industry looks to take fiber further.

Moderator: Brendan O’Boyle, Preformed Line Products

Panelists:

- Lisa Speller-Martone, Head Of Technical Operations for Google Fiber's East Region
- Dan Fishback, VP OSP & Construction, Lumos Fiber
- Steven Brewer, Director of Government Affairs, Brightspeed

12:00PM – 12:45PM Networking Lunch, sponsored by Google Fiber

12:45PM – 1:15PM Networking Dessert with Exhibitors

1:15PM – 1:45PM Fireside Chat Amy Huffman, Policy Director, National Digital Inclusion Alliance

Moderated by Ariane Schaffer, Government Affairs & Public Policy, Google Fiber, FBA Board Member

1:45PM – 2:30PM

Post Deployment – What Comes Next with Fiber Monitoring

Looking ahead five years, what tools and processes are available to operators as they look to streamline management and operational support for a fiber plant that is backbone of local networks and economies? Fiber monitoring will be key to help operators stay ahead of game, plan and develop resources accordingly, and ensure each has the team in place to ensure customer experience expectations are met, and OpEx considerations optimized.

Moderator: Ron Frye, VP of Market Operations, Lit Communities, Chairman FBA Conference Committee

Panelists:

- Robert Bridgham, Executive Director, Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority
- Abdala Kheireddine, Business Development Director, Adva/Adtran
- Katie Espeseth, Vice President, New Products, epb

2:30PM – 3:00PM

Networking Break with Exhibitors, sponsored by The Broadband Group

3:15PM – 3:35PM

**Fiber Broadband Triple Check – Eye on the Prize
Bob Knight and Rich Williams**

3:35PM – 4:30PM

Industry Trends & Technology Best Practices – Supply Chain

As operators look to leverage BEAD funding to upgrade and expand network infrastructure, managing supply chain issues to ensure federal and state deadlines are met is crucial. This requires a higher level of partnership and trust with the companies who supply technology and support for these operators. This panel brings together some of the leading technology companies in the fiber broadband ecosystem together to discuss best practices, management opportunities and challenges and steps each are taking to mitigate risk and ensure operators have what they need, when they need it.

Moderator: Scott Jackson, National Market Manager II, Graybar, FBA Board Member

Panelists:

- Joe Baeumel, Vice President, Cloud Partners, KGPCo
- David Eckard, Vice President of the US Government Broadband Initiatives and Partners Program, Nokia
- Mark Boxer, Technical Manager, OFS
- Trey Rabon, President, AT&T North Carolina

4:30PM – 4:35PM

Closing Remarks

- Ron Frye, VP of Market Operations, Lit Communities, FBA Conference Committee Chair

4:35PM – 5:45PM

Networking Reception, sponsored by Ciena/Graybar