



NEW AMERICA
FOUNDATION

Removing Barriers to Rural and Municipal Wireless Broadband *The Need for Unlicensed Access to Vacant TV Channels*

September 19, 2006 • 12pm – 2pm
253 Russell Senate Office Building

Panelist Bios

PIERRE DE VRIES

Senior Fellow, USC Annenberg School for Communication
Former Senior Director of Advanced Technology Policy, Microsoft Corp.

As Senior Fellow at the USC Annenberg School for Communication, Pierre de Vries works on communications policy issues, including spectrum allocation and Internet regulation. Primarily, De Vries studies the interaction between mental models, which use concrete terms grounded in the sensory-motor system, and the increasingly complex intangibles that make up our world.

Pierre is a former Chief of Incubation, and Senior Director of Advanced Technology and Policy at Microsoft Corporation. His work over twelve years there included:

- Creating and leading a team that developed a prototype web service that brought context data to mobile devices;
- Starting up a project to develop wireless mesh networking for Windows;
- Leading Microsoft's contribution to the effort to get harmonized 5GHz unlicensed spectrum worldwide; and
- Forming the company's first integrated user experience design team, which designed the Windows Smartphone and other handheld products.

Prior to Microsoft, De Vries worked for Korda & Co, a London-based seed capital company and consultancy, advising corporate customers like Pearson and Scientific Atlanta on the likely evolution and business impact of new. He evaluated potential venture capital investments, negotiated investments and relationships, and served as a start-up board member. De Vries earned a B.Sc. (Honours) (cum laude) in theoretical physics in 1983 from Stellenbosch University, and a PhD in theoretical physics from Oxford in 1987.

LEONARD SCOTT

Business Unit Manager, Municipal Information Systems
City of Corpus Christi, TX, Digital Community Development Corporation

Mr. Scott was named one of the Top 25 Doers, Dreamers and Drivers in the US by Government Technology Magazine – March 2006. Mr. Scott is a retired Captain from the Corpus Christi Police Department with 36 years of Service.

Mr. Scott is the project manager for the deployment of the Citywide Automated Gas and Water meter reading system (AMR) and the deployment of Citywide Wi-Fi. In addition to these duties, he is an adjunct instructor teaching Computer Science classes at Del Mar College.

Mr. Scott is a 1976 graduate of Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi having earned both a BS and BA degree. He is a 1984 graduate of Leadership Corpus Christi and a 1988 graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police sponsored by the Police Executive Research Forum in Washington DC.

BRIAN O'HARA

*Government Affairs Representative
National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA)*

Brian O'Hara is GA Representative in the Government Affairs Division of the National Telephone Cooperative Association (NTCA). Mr. O'Hara monitors and tracks legislative issues important to NTCA members and represents the association before Congress, federal agencies and industry forums.

Mr. O'Hara has several years of telecommunications industry experience, including three years in NTCA's Legal and Industry Division before moving over to Government Affairs. Before joining NTCA, Mr. O'Hara spent four years in government affairs with the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA). Mr. O'Hara also worked on Capital Hill for members of congress, including then House Majority Whip David E. Bonior (D-MI) and Rep. Bill Ford (D-MI) then Chairman of the Education and Labor Committee.

Mr. O'Hara graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland with Bachelors of Arts in both history and political science and attended graduate school at Johns Hopkins University.

ROGER COCHETTI

*Group Director, U.S. Public Policy
CompTIA*

Roger J. Cochetti joined CompTIA in September of 2004 as Group Director of U.S. Public Policy, where Mr. Cochetti directs CompTIA's U.S. public policy programs. Before coming to CompTIA, Mr. Cochetti was Senior Vice President for Policy at VeriSign, an Internet and telecom services company. Previously, he was Program Director for Policy with IBM Corporation, where he directed IBM's global e-commerce policy efforts. Earlier, he served as a Vice President of Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT) and Assistant Director of the U.S. International Development Cooperation Agency (USIDCA).

Mr. Cochetti currently serves on the Boards of the Public Affairs Council, the Internet Education Foundation and the Internet Content Rating Association. He is the author of a book and numerous articles on advanced telecommunications and computer industry topics. Mr. Cochetti frequently speaks in public forums on IT and Internet policy matters, has been recognized by Who's Who and is a member of the Princeton Club of New York and the National Press Club.

Roger J. Cochetti graduated from Georgetown University, continuing his education at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, and attaining business certifications from both Cambridge University and the University of Virginia.

JEFF BLANK

*Chief Technology Officer, CONXX, Inc.
Creator, Allegany County, MD, wireless network (AllCoNet)*

Jeffrey Blank is the principal architect of the CONXX Carrier Communication Platform used in AllCoNet 2, a 500 square-mile multi-use, open-access wireless network covering the greater part of Allegany County, Maryland. Jeff's original development on wireless municipal networks dates back to 1994, and the current AllCoNet 2 Network is arguably the most complete and successful wireless network in the United States today. AllCoNet 2 has received the only 'Smart Practice' designation from the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA/NIMS because of its ability to effectively solve communication problems ranging from Public Safety interoperability and mobility to economic development and digital divide. The wireless technologies that are a part of AllCoNet 2 include fixed licensed and unlicensed microwave, Pre-WiMAX and Wi-Fi. Jeff's extensive and lengthy experience with municipal wireless networks sets him apart as one of the pre-eminent experts in the industry.

WENDY WIGEN

*Policy Analyst
EDUCAUSE*

Wendy Wigen is a Policy Analyst at EDUCAUSE where she covers Internet and telecommunications policy issues such as CALEA and net neutrality. She is the editor of the bi-weekly newsletter, the Washington Update, and has written several articles for EDUCAUSE Review. Wendy did her undergraduate work at the University of Puget Sound and has an MS from Syracuse University in Information Management.

PAUL KOLODZY

*Communications Consultant
Former Chair, FCC Spectrum Policy Task Force*

Paul Kolodzy is the former head of the FCC's Spectrum Policy Task Force and is now a communications consultant. Previously, he was the Director of the Center for Wireless Network Security at Stevens Institute of Technology. Prior to his time with the FCC, Dr. Kolodzy was a tenured professor at MIT and a manager for the development of advanced technology and communications with the Defense Department's Advanced Technology Office of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

MICHAEL CALABRESE

*Vice President & Director, Wireless Future Program
New America Foundation*

Michael Calabrese is Vice President and Director of the Wireless Future Program at the New America Foundation, a non-profit think tank based in Washington, D.C. He oversees the Foundation's efforts to improve our nation's management of publicly-owned assets – particularly the public airwaves. New America has advocated open, unlicensed access to an increasing share of the airwaves to facilitate innovation and more affordable and ubiquitous community wireless broadband access. With respect to spectrum licensing, the Program opposes permanent private property rights in frequencies, advocating instead completely flexible license rights for a limited period and compensation for the public based on modest annual user fees by all commercial users, rather than one-time auction payments. New America has supported earmarking spectrum revenue to finance the digital future of non-commercial public service media and for e-learning R&D.

Previously, Mr. Calabrese served as General Counsel of the Congressional Joint Economic Committee and as benefits counsel at the national AFL-CIO. He is the co-author of three previous books on policy and politics and has published opinion articles in the nation's leading outlets, including The Atlantic Monthly, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times. He is a graduate of Stanford Business and Law Schools, where he earned a JD/MBA degree; and a graduate of Harvard College, where he earned a B.A. in Economics and Government.