

Airband Communications – Company Overview

Airband Communications is the largest fixed-wireless broadband provider for businesses in the United States. The company offers a comprehensive portfolio of high-speed data, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and managed solutions – delivered over one of the industry’s most scalable last-mile networks. Airband’s network bypasses local phone and cable companies’ wired infrastructure, providing faster provisioning intervals, immediate scalability and path diversity for Airband customers.

Airband currently serves more than 3,500 customers across 14 markets. The company is rapidly growing into new markets, and expanding its coverage in existing markets including Atlanta; Austin, Texas; Baltimore; Charlotte, N.C.; Dallas/Fort Worth; Houston; Greensboro, N.C.; Los Angeles; Orange County, Calif.; Philadelphia; Phoenix; Raleigh/Durham, N.C.; San Antonio and San Diego.

What Is Fixed Wireless?

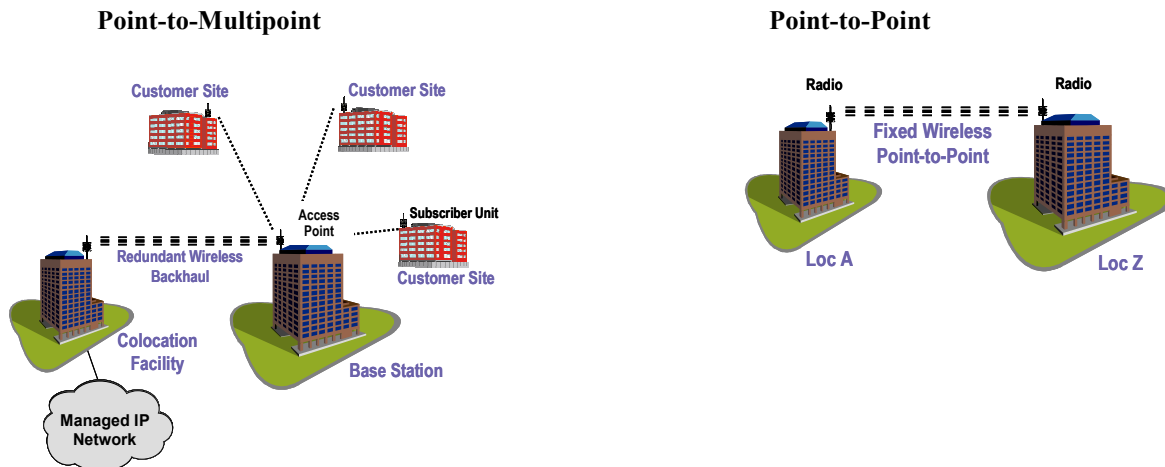
Airband’s suite of services is based on WiMAX fixed-wireless technology, offering wide-ranging, business-class network services designed to meet bandwidth requirements for companies of all sizes, with up to Gigabit Ethernet (GigE) speeds. WiMAX differs from Wi-Fi, which creates Internet “hot spots” in a much smaller range at private and commercial locations, in that it can provide more bandwidth, across a larger geographic area, with quality of service guarantees.

Just as an airplane flies over a crowded freeway, fixed-wireless networks avoid the “traffic jams” of hard-wired networks to stream high-speed data, voice and Internet services to customers with remarkable simplicity and reliability. Fixed-wireless services can be installed in a matter of days, and the network is extremely scalable, so customers have the ability to easily increase bandwidth on an on-demand basis.

How Fixed Wireless Works

Airband delivers its integrated services over a wholly owned last-mile network. Within each market, Airband builds multiple base stations to provide service for its customers. Airband base stations broadcast and receive data through Access Points, which are typically located atop tall buildings to ensure maximum range. The signal is received by another radio – Subscriber Units (SUs) – at the customer’s location. Each base station covers up to a five-mile radius (an approximate 78 square miles of coverage) and can serve multiple customers in a point-to-multipoint configuration. Most Airband customers receive service through this method, by which a base station connects multiple subscribers in the coverage area to Airband’s core network and managed IP backbone.

For customers who require higher bandwidth, typically above 45 Mbps or dedicated connection between two locations, Airband deploys point-to-point service in both the licensed and the licensed exempted spectrum. Point-to-point service can reach up to 20 miles with clear line of sight.



Unlike wireless broadband services for residences, Airband’s high-speed data and VoIP services travel securely via Airband’s private network – rather than over the public Internet. This ensures that Airband customers are receiving true, business-class service that is both safe and secure.

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The Fixed-Wireless Advantage

Airband's service differentiation is based on the simplicity of its fixed-wireless network. While traditional networks are mired in mix-and-match technologies pieced together over decades, Airband designed and built its network from the ground up for the sole purpose of delivering fast and flexible broadband solutions to businesses.

Fixed wireless offers a number of compelling advantages over traditional copper and fiber connections, including:

- **Rapid Installation:** Whereas wired service providers take weeks – even months – to provision a connection for a new customer, Airband can have customers activated in just days.
- **Scalable Bandwidth:** When customers need more network bandwidth, it's as easy as "turning up the dial," and Airband can make it happen in a matter of minutes. Such bandwidth elasticity is perfect for growing companies that need to ramp up service over time, or handle short-term spikes for business continuity and disaster recovery purposes.
- **Path Diversity:** Airband's network offers a truly diverse path, unaffected by the vulnerabilities of traditional networks such as cable cuts that can take days to repair. What's more, Airband offers Dual Path Service Delivery (DPSD), which automatically "fails over" the customers' service to the backup circuit to provide even greater protection against downtime.
- **No Upfront Capital Investment:** There is no additional equipment cost to implement Airband's data services and upgrading circuits will not require equipment upgrade charges.
- **Ethernet Connectivity:** Our data service is delivered via an Ethernet connection, making it easy and simple for customers to connect directly to their LAN.

Through increased availability, redundancy and scalability, Airband customers find that fixed-wireless broadband delivers value to their bottom line.

Reliability and Security

Not only is fixed-wireless a more efficient and affordable path to high-speed bandwidth, it is secured and reliable as traditional telecom networks. First, Airband's network is designed with dual-paths from each base station to its core network ensuring service reliability. Airband's wireless equipment is not configured for open access, meaning that only Airband and the equipment manufacturer are aware of the data transmission and authentication scheme used to initiate communication. Additionally, data is transmitted to and from Airband customers using 128 bit Advanced Encryption Standard (AES), an extra layer of security.

From a quality of service (QOS) perspective, Airband deploys eight levels of signal modulation where the network radios automatically choose the appropriate level to ensure optimal throughput during adverse weather conditions. Airband's roof top radios are designed to withstand up to 120 mph winds. Even through the devastating hurricane seasons of recent years, Airband's coastal customers remained online.

Airband backs up its service with a 100% uptime guarantee and is one of the few fixed wireless service provider that have service level guarantees on jitter, latency and packet loss.

Leading the WiMAX Revolution

As the leading fixed-wireless provider for businesses in the U.S., Airband is known and respected for its local support staff, exemplary service and customer responsiveness. The company is expanding coverage in its existing markets and launching new markets rapidly.

What is WiMAX

The name *WiMAX* (**Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access**) was created by the WiMAX Forum, a wireless industry coalition formed in June 2001 to promote conformance and interoperability of the IEEE 802.16 standard. The forum describes WiMAX as "a standards-based technology enabling the delivery of last-mile wireless broadband access as an alternative to cable and DSL."

WiMAX technology is designed to provide high-bandwidth wireless connectivity over long distances in a variety of ways, from point to point links to full mobile cellular type access. WiMAX technology also enables Quality of Service (QOS) capabilities for traffic prioritization, making it suitable for to applications such as Voice over IP.

Two commonly used terms related to WiMAX are fixed WiMAX and mobile WiMAX. Fixed WiMAX refers to systems built using 802.16-2004 ('802.16d') standard for line-of-sight, high-bandwidth services, not designed for mobility or roaming. While Mobile WiMAX is used to describe services based on 802.16e-2005 standard, delivering mobile services that enables handoff between coverage areas.

