



Super COWs take the show at Lollapalooza

Lollapalooza - Chicago 2019



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In today's world, connectivity is a major necessity at any outdoor event. The Lollapalooza Music Festival in Chicago, which took place in August, was no exception.

One of the biggest challenges when hosting any type of festival or outdoor event is providing seamless wireless connectivity.

The need for connectivity has grown to be not only expected, but needed by those in attendance, as well as those who are managing, securing, and presenting the show. Those in attendance make calls, upload photos and video, and send messages and rely on connectivity for location services, safety, and security.



Picture courtesy, Chicago Magazine

Imagine hosting one of the country's biggest festivals, in one of the busiest cities in the United States. Finding ample cellular signal and bandwidth is already hard enough in a crowded area like downtown Chicago.

Additional bandwidth is needed to increase capacity for the dense crowd of over 400,000 attending the festival and using their mobile devices in Grant Park. This year, Fulton Technologies, who specializes in wireless turnkey infrastructure, partnered with PerfectVision and Westell to try and solve for this very problem.

The project required a temporary network to make connectivity more robust throughout Grant Park, and to augment the existing wireless cellular carrier's network. To solve this problem, Fulton Technologies built four 4-transmit-4-receiver (4T4R) antenna technology

Cell on Wheels (COWs) for the temporary service. Prior to the Lollapalooza event, the wireless carrier requested a build out of the existing COWs to the new configuration.



With only four weeks to complete the task, Fulton reached out to PerfectVision to source a large number of hybrid combiners. The combiners were not a stock item for distributors, and most OEM's were projecting lead times that fell far beyond the event.

When asked to help, PerfectVision leveraged some of their existing relationships to try and meet the tight deadline. Working with Westell, the combiners were able to be built, tested, shipped, and delivered in the required timeframe.

This project was quickly completed and was deemed as the best results the carrier has experienced since the COWs have been placed for the event's history.

If it hadn't been for great partners, constant communication, and teamwork from the carrier to the OEM, this project would not have been completed on time. However, thanks to the hard work and efforts from all parties involved, the project became a reality... as well as a success!

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