

# PTC-220, LLC Overview



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# History

- ▶ Concept is to secure spectrum to support interoperable PTC
  - Wireless connectivity has been one of the “Achilles Heels” of PTC development efforts to date
  - Acquire spectrum as needed to meet demand
- ▶ 7 Equal Members comprised of the Class 1 railroads
  - Formed by NS and UP in late 2007
    - Original purchase of 280 kHz of nationwide 220 MHz spectrum
    - Various nationwide licenses and aggregated regional licenses
  - Joined by BNSF and CSX in early 2010
    - BNSF spectrum added 100 kHz of nationwide spectrum
  - Joined by CN, CP, and KCS in 2011
- ▶ Operates through multiple committees made up of volunteers from the Members
  - Management Committee, Spectrum Management Committee (SMC), Legal, Finance, Tax

# Why 220 MHz for PTC?

## ▶ Considerations

- Availability, Cost, Propagation, Compatibility with Rail Infrastructure

## ▶ Evaluation

- 44 MHz, 160 MHz, 220 MHz, 450 MHz, 900 MHz, Cellular, Satellite

## ▶ Findings

- VHF is best suited to rail infrastructure
- 160 MHz issues with existing voice use and other users
- Others seeking to purchase spectrum for commercial use impacts availability and cost (ie: competing with cell providers)

## ▶ Selected 220 MHz

- Available, Cost effective, Propagates well, leverages existing railroad tower infrastructure, minimizes interference when co-located with existing 160 MHz

# Making shared spectrum work...

- ▶ Unprecedented complexity for railroad industry to deploy a fully interoperable nationwide data radio network capable of supporting PTC's low latency requirements
- ▶ Spectrum Management Committee
  - Manage spectrum licenses and leases
  - Primary goal of efficient spectrum use
  - Construction planning and coordination
  - Congested area designs
  - Mitigate and address radio interference
  - Monitor demand and identify capacity constraints
  - Dispute resolution

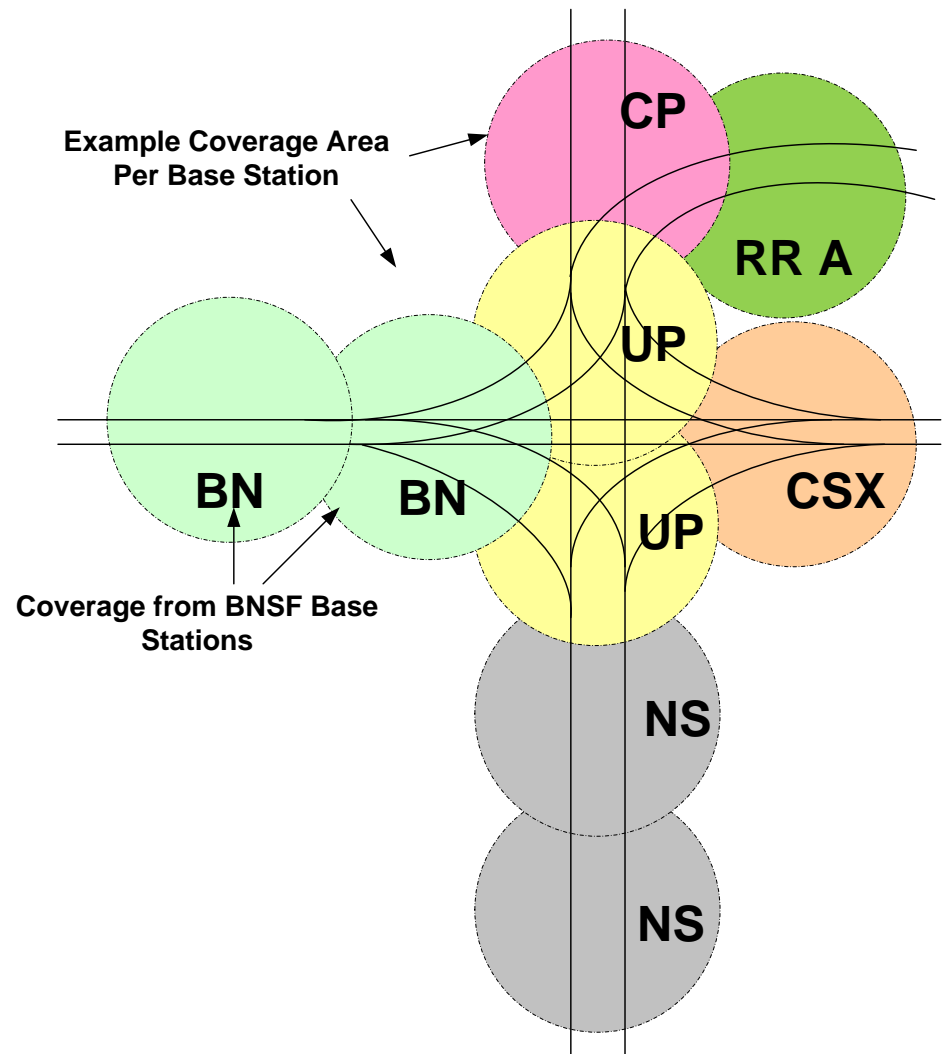
# Operating Plan

- ▶ PTC-220 owns spectrum licenses and leases spectrum to users who are responsible for buildout and associated infrastructure
  - Members represent overwhelming majority of PTC deployment mileage
  - All Members will have leases
  - Non-member leases provided on spectrum availability
  - Infrastructure is shared to maximize spectrum efficiency
- ▶ Non-Member Lease Guiding Principles
  - Non-members pay their fair share
  - Reasonable allocation of costs:
    - Acquisition cost of 220Mhz spectrum (usable for PTC)
    - PTC-220 Ongoing operating costs
  - Lease rate calculations should be simple and easy to understand

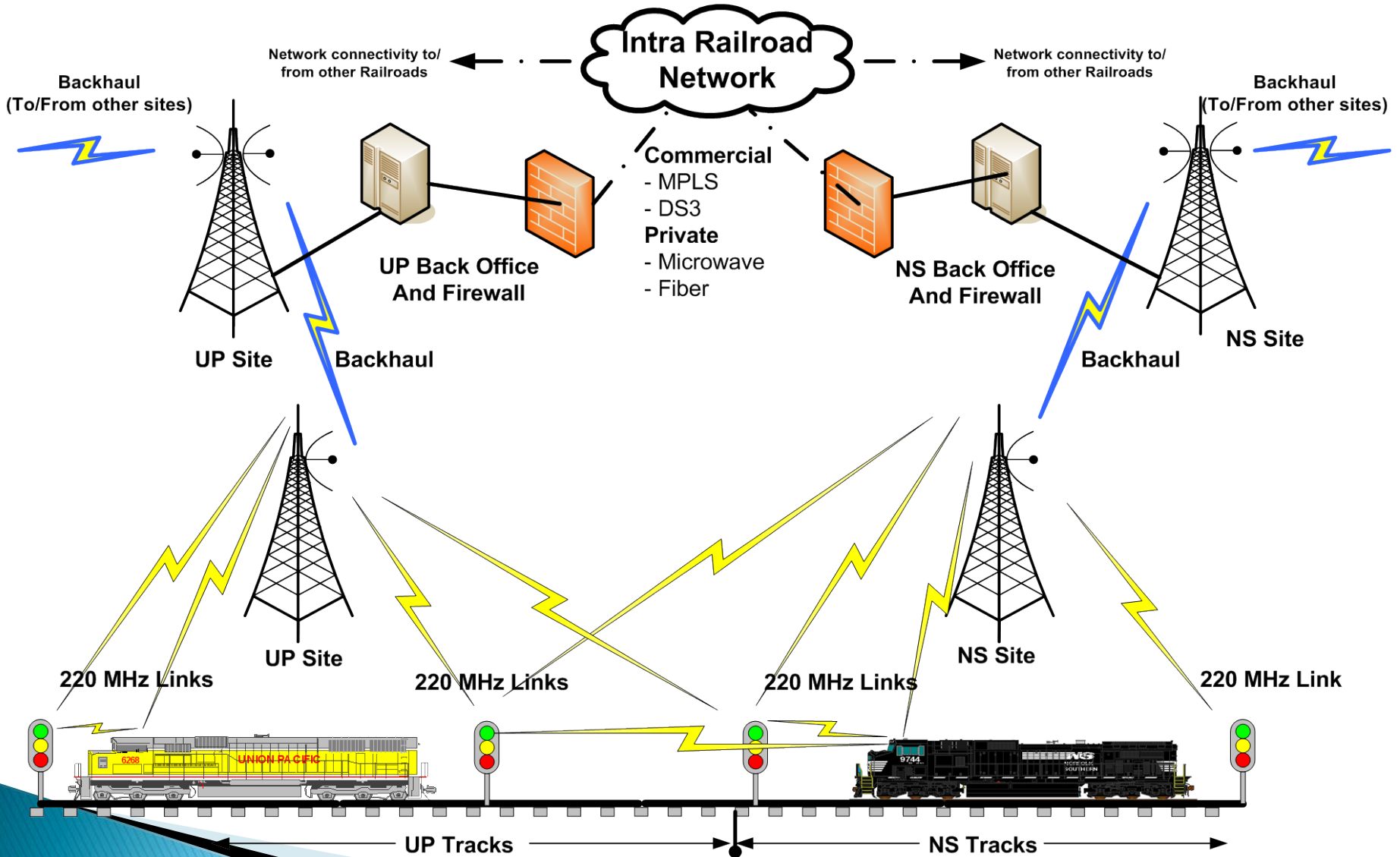
# Progress Toward Implementation

- ▶ Tools and processes for shared network planning and coordinated deployment
- ▶ Congested areas require greater coordination and planning due to high demand and limited spectrum availability

## Example Joint Operations Diagram LLC Members and one Non-Member User



# PTC 220 MHz Lessee Infrastructure and Network Connectivity Diagram



# Substantial progress to date

- ▶ Current spectrum holdings appear to address most of the PTC deployment demand
- ▶ Collaborative relationship with FCC to facilitate efficient use of spectrum to support deployment for PTC
- ▶ Planning tools and software to support complex planning have been developed and are being used
- ▶ Lease holders have completed work on over 2,600 sites (nearly 400 base station and over 2,200 wayside)
- ▶ Field testing and validation of radio network is underway



# More work to be done

- ▶ Secure additional spectrum where needed
  - While most areas have enough spectrum, some congested areas will require more
- ▶ Complexity of congested areas such as Chicago and Northeast are likely to require iteration and refinement
  - Congested areas present challenges due to complexity of rail networks and density of operations
  - Analysis either underway or completed in 8 congested areas
  - Designs must account for other 220 MHz licensed spectrum users to mitigate interference
- ▶ Validation of shared network and design must be completed to assure PTC interoperability is supported
- ▶ Lease holders still need to install over 35,000 sites to fully support PTC deployment