

GREAT AMERICAN BALLPARK: Delivering Wireless Excellence in a Unique Setting

As millions of fans tune in to watch the 2015 Major League Baseball All-Star Game next summer at the Great American Ballpark, more than 42,000 of the sport's luckiest and most devoted fans will enjoy world-class data speeds and ubiquitous wireless connectivity right in the middle of all the action.



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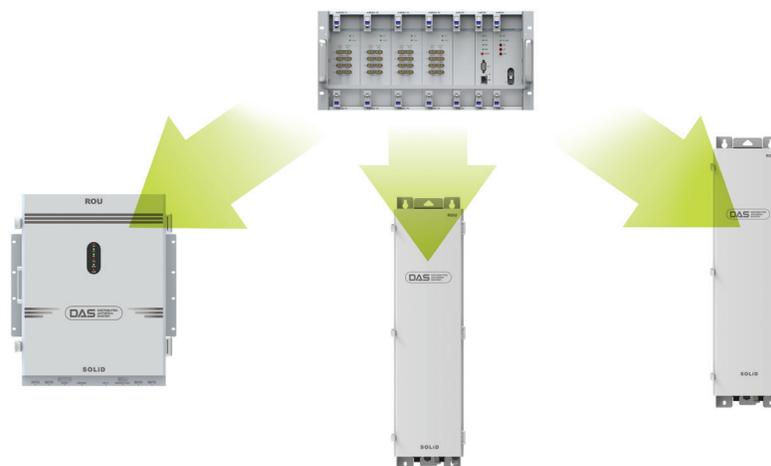
The idea that big, open-air stadiums are bad places for wireless connectivity has met its match. The robust distributed antenna system (DAS) deployments in the Great American Ballpark means, at least for Reds fans, that poor connections at baseball games are a thing of the past.

Thanks to help from Ericsson and DAS gear from SOLiD, Great American Ballpark's DAS deployment can handle not just the overall growth in Reds fans' wireless needs, but also the extra demands of a special event and all the selfies that go along with it.

Sporting events, concerts and other special events are no longer passive events for today's fans in attendance. As these wireless subscribers turn to their mobile devices to share and engage with media during these major events, wireless networks are oftentimes overwhelmed with the spike in data traffic that ensues. SOLiD's equipment in and around Great American Ballpark delivers the fast, always-on service required of today's most popular devices and services.

Two powerful DAS networks, one shared head end

Verizon Wireless showed the utmost confidence in SOLiD's ability to improve connectivity and data capacity within the ballpark, following its previously successful project at the adjacent Paul Brown Stadium, home of the Cincinnati Bengals. That long-term partnership enabled both companies to reduce costs and unnecessary equipment redundancies by implementing a unique, first-of-its kind deployment.



Only SOLiD offers the ability to mix and match 1W, 5W and 20W Remotes on a single system to achieve optimal network capacity and coverage in stadiums and arenas.

By using the same head-end equipment already installed less than a mile away underneath Paul Brown Stadium, two separate DAS networks can now use the same base transceiver station to serve the adjacent venues with a combined capacity of almost 108,000 people. SOLiD's equipment and solutions are engineered to reclaim existing infrastructure while fulfilling specific coverage and capacity requirements for cellular, and public safety.

With SOLiD's optical expansion unit reaching up to 6.2 miles, multiple venues can operate from one centralized location without adding any noise whatsoever. This eliminates access issues, drives down costs (at least \$1.5 million in equipment alone in this case) and improves the remote management capabilities of network operations staff. The DAS network enables the carrier to optimize spectrum assets while making tremendous gains in its ability to support a large number of users at the Great American Ballpark complex.

The deployment features an arsenal of fiber-efficient, high-power remotes in lockable, NEMA-rated water-tight enclosures securely mounted on various public areas throughout the venue. SOLiD's equipment powers nine sectors designed for capacity offload, allowing users to have LTE MIMO speeds throughout the venue. Every sector has at least two or three 20-watt remotes that cover a couple levels of seating with six to eight antennas for each.

Network managers can power up the remotes at the ballpark and football stadium, depending on the need. So when the Reds are playing a home game and Paul Brown Stadium sits empty nearby, staff can determine capacity needs in real time and adjust the series of remotes to increase or power back macro cell sites accordingly.

After an aggressive two-month project involving all parties, SOLiD's equipment and the resulting wireless capacity gains were up and running before the Reds 2013 season opener.

Wireless service that covers all the bases

"Baseball fans expect a first-class experience when attending games, and part of that is being able to use their devices wherever they are in the stadium - whether they're monitoring other league news, sharing updates with friends, or voting on the player of the game," said Chris Hullahan, Sales Director at Ericsson, the integrator that deployed the SOLiD DAS serving Verizon customers at the Great American Ballpark. "SOLiD's DAS products give us the broad wireless coverage and capacity we need to deliver mobile services from major operators to all subscribers in a stadium such as Great American Ballpark."

Whether a fan finds him or herself in the private Riverboat Deck, center field or in the Rose Garden that symbolizes Pete Rose's record-breaking 4,192nd hit, they will enjoy consistently paramount coverage and speeds on their mobile devices.