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January 18, 2011

4G Wireless Evolution - Clearwire Names Stanton as Board Chairman



By [Susan J. Campbell](#)

[TMCnet Contributing Editor](#)

John Stanton has been elected as chairman of the Clearwire Corporation board, according to a TechCrunch [report](#). Stanton will replace founder Craig McCaw who resigned Dec. 31, from the wireless service provider's board.

Stanton, a managing director of Trilogy Partners, part owner of Clearwire and a wireless industry veteran, has served on the Clearwire board since November of 2008. Clearwire's former Chief Executive Benjamin Wolff will be replacing McCaw as a board member.

This move in the oversight of the company comes as Clearwire continues to scramble to raise billions of dollars in additional funding. The wireless company, 54 percent owned by Sprint Nextel, is working to complete its high-speed wireless network.

Stanton served as chairman of VoiceStream Corp., from 1994 to 2004. VoiceStream became T-Mobile USA when it was purchased by Deutsche Telekom.

In its attempt to raise the needed funds to effectively compete in the market, Clearwire has considered options such as a potential equity investment from T-Mobile USA. The company may also opt to sell wireless airwaves. No clear strategy has yet been determined.

Clearwire has gotten much attention over the past year as the company has been evaluating different options to achieve its goals. Earlier this month, TMCnet [reported](#) that Sprint Nextel had decided not to purchase Clearwire's debt.

The opportunity arose when on Dec. 2, [Clearwire said](#) it was raising over \$1.1 billion, according to a company statement. Wall Street apparently welcomed the news from Sprint's point of view. The carrier's shares increased more than 6 percent, according to an analyst's blog from Zacks. One move that [could propel the company forward](#) is the announcement that the onBoard Mobile Gateway from [In Motion Technology](#) has been certified to provide mission critical fleets reliable, secure access to [Clearwire's 4G network](#) in a number of different cities throughout the nation.

With this implementation, utility workers, police, medics and other personnel in the field will be able to access multiple high-bandwidth applications, such as video, voice, and telemedicine technologies over Clearwire's 4G network. Users will also be able to seamlessly switch to 3G and other networks outside of the 4G footprint.

A new study [found](#) that strong consumer demand for "4G" devices is expected over the next year, despite some confusion about what that actually means. More significantly, most consumers seem able to correctly identify the key differences between 4G and 3G. This demand could help extend the market for Clearwire, creating even more opportunities.

Want to learn more about 4G wireless technologies? Then be sure to attend the [4GWE Conference](#), collocated with TMC's [ITEXPO East](#), taking place Feb 2-4, 2011, in Miami. The 4GWE Conference provides unmatched networking opportunities and a robust conference program representing the wireless ecosystem. The conference not only brings together the best and brightest in the wireless industry, it actually spans the communications and technology industry. To register, [click here](#).

Susan J. Campbell is a contributing editor for TMCnet and has also written for eastbiz.com. To read more of Susan's articles,

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