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Full Service set to launch wireless 'hotzone' at U.S. Steel Tower

By [Kim Leonard](#)
TRIBUNE-REVIEW
Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Workers at the U.S. Steel Tower soon will be able to take their laptop computers outside, along with their bagged lunches, and use the Internet while enjoying a warm day.

The telecommunications firm Full Service Network will activate a wireless Internet "hotzone" on Friday that, at first, will allow anyone within the two blocks surrounding the tower to go online for free without cables or wires. After late June, the service will cost about \$9.95 a month.

The zone will expand, Full Service President David Schwencke said. Full Service expects to cover half of Downtown by the end of this year, with complete service by mid-2006. Oakland and part of Shadyside are being considered for future expansions.

Full Service Network's signal will originate from the Downtown tower, where the firm is headquartered. The firm is calling the service Western Pennsylvania's "largest and fastest" wireless Internet zone, and said it will cover the building's upper and lower lobbies, concourse eateries and lounge areas and the outside courtyard.

"People who need to get business done would want to use this," Schwencke said.

Last November, Telerama Wireless Corp. and Oxford Development Co. began providing Telerama's wireless Internet access service to select areas of One Oxford Centre, Downtown. The 45-story building at 301 Grant St. was the first high-rise in the city to offer the service. Telerama also offers it through a network of businesses, including coffee shops, restaurants and business centers Downtown and in other neighborhoods.

Schwencke said anyone with a laptop and a basic wireless card can download an e-mail attachment on a lunch break, for example, and transmit images at speeds of up to 10 megabits per second. This is more than seven times faster than a typical T1 office connection, he said, and

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Schwencke said Full Service invested nearly \$30,000 in the project. "We hope to recover that this year alone," he said.

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