

Spring Into Action...Serve!

Volunteer Opportunities Fair

January 27 & 28
10a.m. to 2 p.m.
MSC Flagroom

Sponsored by: Department of Student Activities
Volunteer Services Center <http://vsc.tamu.edu>



Cingular offers to buy AT&T Wireless

By Harry R. Weber
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — Cingular Wireless has fired first in a potential bidding war to buy AT&T Wireless, offering more than \$27 billion cash for a deal that would create the nation's largest cell phone company.

AT&T Wireless' board of directors received a formal offer from Cingular over the weekend, several sources with knowledge of the situation said Tuesday on condition of anonymity.

But three other wireless companies have also contacted AT&T Wireless to express strong interest in buying the company, one of the sources said. It was unclear how formal an overture has been made by any of those suitors — Vodafone PLC of Britain, NTT DoCoMo of Japan, and Nextel Communications of Reston, Va.

The Cingular offer includes a premium over AT&T Wireless' closing market value on Friday of \$9.99 per share, or \$27 billion, another of the sources said.

However, with shares of AT&T Wireless rising 40 cents to \$10.39 on Tuesday, padding last week's 20 percent gain driven by takeover speculation, a prospective buyer may need to exceed the company's new market value of more than \$28 billion. In addition, any buyer would also need to assume AT&T Wireless' debts, which totaled \$6.1 billion at the end of the third quarter.

Officials from AT&T Wireless and Cingular declined to comment. AT&T Wireless' board of directors was expected to wrap up a previously scheduled meeting in Florida later Tuesday.

Analysts did not expect a deal right away with so many parties showing interest.

While AT&T Wireless has struggled with the industry's price wars and the huge investments needed to expand and upgrade its network, rivals are envious of the company's large base of business customers, who tend to buy higher-priced calling packages and premium services

Cingular makes an offer to acquire AT&T Wireless

Six to five?

A successful merger would combine the No. 2 and No. 3 wireless carriers in the nation and shrink the top players from six to five.



SOURCES: The Yankee Group; Associated Press

such as wireless Internet access.

"This is going to take a while," said Patrick Comack, a telecommunications analyst with Guzman and Company in Miami. "Vodafone is not going to let this go without a fight. And if they try to fight, NTT DoCoMo will try to block them."

Cingular, jointly owned by SBC Communications and BellSouth, still doesn't own spectrum in several key U.S. markets. A deal with AT&T Wireless, which uses the same cellular technology, could help fill in many of those gaps, while cutting costs for the merged operation.

NTT DoCoMo, a rival to Vodafone in many countries with an eye on expansion, already owns 16 percent of AT&T Wireless and has two representatives on the U.S. company's board.

Vodafone already owns 45 percent of U.S. market leader Verizon Wireless. But as one of the world's biggest cell phone companies, the British firm is said to be dissatisfied with settling for such a passive role in a market as crucial as the United States. Verizon also uses a different cellular technology than Vodafone, while AT&T Wireless uses the same standard, making its network an easier fit for any international services Vodafone might sell its subscribers.

Nextel, meanwhile, doesn't have a high-speed wireless Internet service to offer a sizable base of business customers, a competitive disadvantage that AT&T Wireless addressed with a \$300 million upgrade to its network.

A merger between Cingular and AT&T Wireless would create the combined company into the top slot in terms of U.S. share, while an agreement with Nextel would create a company close in size to No. 1 Verizon.

But a deal with either company also slim the field of wireless carriers from six to possibly easing the fierce competition sparked by a new rule that lets customers switch carriers without losing phone numbers.

Atlanta-based Cingular is currently the nation's second-largest wireless carrier with 23.4 million voice and data customers. Verizon, based in Bedford, N.J., has 36.0 million subscribers while AT&T Wireless is No. 3 with 21.9 million. All of those figures were calculated as of the end of September.

Cingular, with annual revenue of about \$15 billion, has been adding customers steadily in several quarters, helping to the earnings of its parent company. BellSouth released its fourth-quarter and year-end earnings on Thursday.

AT&T Wireless, based in Redmond, Wash., has annual revenue of \$16.5 billion.

MSC Student Leadership Training Workshop

presented by MSC Human Resources

January 24
9am - 2pm

University Apartments
Community Center

Registration forms are found and can be turned in the MSC room 216T. Registration deadline is January 21st by 5:00pm.

Questions, call Lindsey Wilson - 979-845-1515



This training is required for any MSC Leader position before taking office.

I HAVE A DREAM

2004 Campus With A Dream Week

Tuesday, January 20th 10am-12pm, Rudder Fountain Kickoff Celebration 12pm-1pm, Stark Gallery Kickoff Speech 2pm-4pm, Evans Library Room 106 Lecture and Discussion: "Diversity, Collegiality, and the Scholarly Environment at Texas A&M"	Wednesday, January 21st 12pm-1pm, Rudder Fountain MSC Town Hall: Lunch Box Concert 11:30am-1pm, Rudder Fountain MSC Literary Arts Committee: The World's Longest Poem 5pm, Rudder 502 MSC E.L. Miller: "A Cultural Look at the History of Technology"	Thursday, January 22nd 11:10am-12:25pm, Harrington 204 A History on Perspectives of "Race" Lecture by Dr. Sheela Athreya 11:10am-12:25pm, Blocker 160 Cultural Relativism Lecture by Dr. Cynthia Warner 11:30am-1pm, Rudder Fountain MSC Literary Arts Committee: The World's Longest Poem 12pm-1pm, Rudder Fountain MSC Town Hall: Lunch Box Concert 12:45pm-2pm, O&M Building 210 African American Folklore Lecture by Dr. Tom Green	Friday, January 23rd 7pm, MSC 201 MSC CIA: American Voices 10:20am-11:10am, Blocker 102 "North American Indians before Columbus" Lecture by Dr. Alston Thomas 12pm, Duncan Dining Hall Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference (SBSLC) with Speaker Bryon Baine SBSLC Variety Show 7:10pm - Comedian; 7:45 - Siam Post; 8:20pm - Step Africa 10pm, MSC MSC Aggie Nights: "Campus with a Dream" Sponsored by MSC ALOT, MSC FISH, MSC Hospitality and MSC LEAD 10pm, MSC Flagroom MSC Town Hall: Hip Hop Contest	Saturday, January 24th 1:30pm, Rudder Auditorium Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference (SBSLC) - Keynote Speaker Nikki Giovanni 2:45pm-4:00pm Student Leader Forum: SBSLC delegates and TAMU student leaders session (Invitation Only)	Sunday, January 25th 2pm-6pm, MSC Flagroom MSC Open House with Entertainment Monday, January 26th 9am-2pm, MSC Flagroom Viewing of "Eyes on the Prize" 4pm-7pm, Rudder Auditorium MSC Town Hall: Showtime at the Apollo Auditions 7pm, Bush Presidential Conference Center Campus with a Dream Keynote Speakers: Mr. Fred McClure and Dr. Betty Miller Underbar Reception Following Tuesday, January 27th 7:30pm, Rudder Auditorium MSC OPAS: "Cats" Wednesday, January 28th 7:30pm, Rudder Auditorium MSC OPAS: "Cats"
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For More Information, Please Contact the Memorial Student Center at 845-1515
Texas A&M University

Fox's 'American Idol' a big winner in season debut

LOS ANGELES — Fox's "American Idol" hit impressively high ratings notes in its third season premiere.

The talent show drew 29 million viewers Monday, the best start for any series in the 2003-04 season, according to preliminary

Nielsen Media Research figures released Tuesday by Fox.

Fox also enjoyed a solid debut for "My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiance," a reality series that debuted after "American Idol." The new series was watched by 19.6 million viewers.

Final figures for both series, which helped win the night among total viewers as well as advertiser-coveted younger ones, will be available Wednesday.

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 LARGE 1-TOPPING	2 LARGE 1-TOPPING	1 EX-LARGE 2-TOPPING	1 LARGE 2-TOPPING & 2 liter drink	PICK YOUR SIDE LARGE 2-TOPPING AND 1 SIDE	FAMILY SPECIAL 1 LARGE 2-TOPPING	ANY LARGE SPECIALTY
\$5.99 pu/only	\$12.99 pu/delivery	\$10.50 pu/delivery	\$11.99 pu/delivery	\$12.78 pu/delivery	\$16.99	\$11.99

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979-846-3600

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Rock Prairie
1700 Rock Prairie
979-680-0508

Sunday: 11 a.m. - midnight
Monday - Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 1 a.m.
Thursday: 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.
Friday & Saturday: 11 a.m. - 3 a.m.

OPEN LATE