



FCC CHAIRMAN PAI AND ALTAEROS CEO DISCUSS RURAL CONNECTIVITY CHALLENGES

Discussions focused on leveraging innovation to expand rural connectivity and bridge the digital divide.

Somerville, Massachusetts – October 17th, 2018: FCC Chairman Pai visited Altaeros' headquarters in Somerville, MA to learn more about Altaeros' SuperTower solution and to discuss how the FCC can help to encourage the type of private sector innovation that is needed to solve the challenge of rural connectivity. The SuperTower offers a quicker, more cost-effective way to build wireless infrastructure in rural markets where traditional towers are cost prohibitive. Altaeros' CEO, Ben Glass, sat down with Chairman Pai to share the company's views on why innovative new approaches to wireless infrastructure are needed to break the fundamental cost barrier that is keeping the digital divide in place.

Glass and Pai's discussion focused on why the infrastructure gap has persisted in rural markets, and how innovations like the SuperTower will soon fill this gap in a scalable and effective manner. They also discussed ways in which the FCC can continue to encourage the telecom industry, which is dominated by a number of large companies, to further engage with the entrepreneurial community and embrace start-up solutions. New ideas like the SuperTower have the potential to accelerate the goal of universal access, and change the dynamic of how 5G, IoT and other technologies are deployed.

In its 2018 Broadband Deployment Report, the FCC reported that over 24 million Americans still lack fixed terrestrial broadband at speeds of 25 Mbps/3 Mbps. The FCC has been a major proponent of bringing broadband access to every corner of the country.

"It is very heartening to see how serious the FCC and Chairman Pai take the issue of universal broadband. We are excited to continue working closely with the FCC to ensure we can quickly deploy these much needed solutions to this important challenge." Said CEO Ben Glass.



From left to right: Peter Mitton, Joe Ryan, Ajit Pai, Ben Glass at Altaeros' HQ in Somerville, MA

About Altaeros: Altaeros' mission is to rapidly expand affordable, state-of-the-art connectivity to rural communities around the world. The Altaeros SuperTower uses the world's first autonomous aerostat platform to deploy high-speed mobile broadband in rural markets at a fraction of the cost of alternatives. Each SuperTower replaces a network of 15 traditional cell towers and seamlessly integrates into the existing cell network. Altaeros was founded at MIT in 2010 and has raised funding from SoftBank Group Corp., Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, the Suhail Bahwan Group and Ratan N. Tata.

Learn more at www.altaeros.com.

Please send all press inquiries to press@altaeros.com

###