

Flying COWs (Cell Tower on Wings)



The sky is truly the limit when it comes to the use of drones on our network. The Flying COW— or Cell Tower on Wings - is an exciting next step in how AT&T plans to use drones to bring strong wireless connectivity to those who need it most. A Flying COW functions like a cell site on a drone which, once airborne, is designed to provide LTE wireless coverage from the sky to a designated area on the ground.

When COWs FLY: The Sky is the Limit

In the future, Flying COWs may serve as a potential solution for providing wireless coverage in emergency situations requiring rapid response or to enhance network coverage during large events.



[See full video here.](#)

We expect it to provide coverage to a larger footprint because it can potentially fly at altitudes higher than a traditional cell on wheels' mast.

AT&T's drone team recently completed what we believe is an industry first: a successful live test flight of a Flying COW transmitting and receiving high speed data above a field outside Atlanta.

In the future, it may be used to provide coverage to emergency responders when a traditional COW could not – like in the wake of a natural disaster involving flooding or in areas of rough terrain.



We'll also look to develop Flying COWs to enhance coverage at big events like music festivals and sporting events and to test for and help resolve connectivity issues in nearly real time to help provide an outstanding wireless experience for consumers.

