

**Case Study:**

## **Boston's Wireless Initiative Takes Off With the Launch of Downtown Wi-Fi**



"The downtown locations will help boost economic growth by making the city and even more attractive place to work and visit."

Thomas Menino, Mayor,  
City of Boston

Boston became the next city to exemplify the achievement of public Wi-Fi when multiple interests share a common vision and are determined to see it through. In a ribbon cutting ceremony held in October, SkyPilot wireless mesh equipment went live throughout the City Hall Plaza, Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall areas, a mere eight months after Boston's Wireless Task Force was initially formed.

"We said we would move quickly and we have," said Mayor Thomas Menino as he flipped the switch to launch the new service. Covering key tourist and government areas downtown, users will be able to access wireless Internet using their portable devices in the well-traveled open areas and shops of Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall, as well as the plaza area around city hall.

Boston's Wireless Task Force made its final recommendation in July, and determined that the city should take a carrier-neutral, open access business

model approach within the wireless Broadband value chain. The city created a nonprofit corporation to own and operate the network, which manages wholesale distribution of access to the network by ISPs desiring to offer services. The task force saw this as an essential aspect of achieving the city's goal of universally affordable Internet access by creating a competitive environment at the service provider level.

The downtown Boston pilot deployment is an ideal way for the



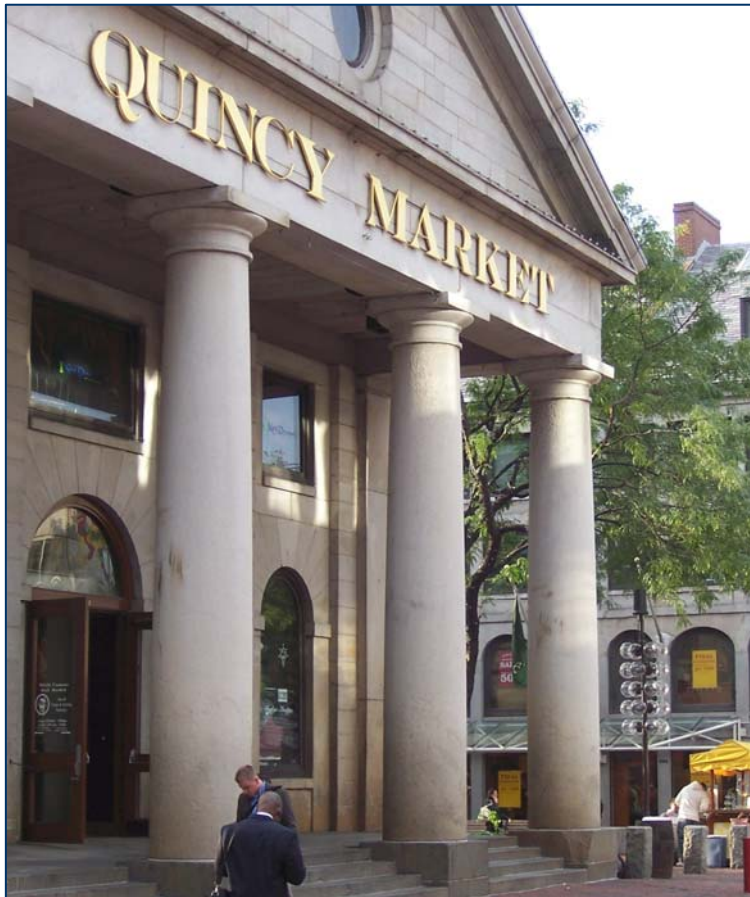
Aerial View of Downtown Boston's Wi-Fi Hotzone

# Boston Goes Live with SkyPilot

managing corporation to identify the most effective model for the city to pursue in the long run. "We're anxious not to pre-suppose anything," says Pam Reeve, who heads up the nonprofit entity, and furthers, "We're now in the 'lets learn as much as we can' phase... we want vendors to help us learn." SkyPilot wireless mesh technology and particularly its SkyExtender DualBand nodes with integrated Wi-Fi access played a central role in enabling the initial deployment. For its part, Boston elicited volunteer efforts from around the city, including the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 103 (IBEW) who donated time and

labor to install the wireless mesh nodes throughout the coverage area. Galaxy Internet Services donated the access service to the hotzone.

The SkyExtender DualBand supports a high capacity 5GHz mesh backhaul while simultaneously supporting client access on a separate 2.4GHz radio. This dual functionality simplifies the deployment phase by eliminating separate access points for Wi-Fi access. Visually, the integrated SkyExtender node is less intrusive as well, blending into the streetscape while requiring a minimal footprint.



"The Boston Wireless Initiative is up and running."  
Mayor Menino

## SkyPilot Solution

The third-generation synchronous mesh network solution from SkyPilot Networks combines standards-based Wi-Fi access with a high performance, scalable and self healing wireless mesh backhaul network using:

- SkyGateway™ nodes to interface with the Internet (POP)
- SkyExtender™ DualBand nodes that integrate Wi-Fi access and mesh backhaul
- SkyConnector™ Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) to link clients with the mesh
- SkyControl™ and SkyProvision™ software for centralized management

## Benefits

**Exceptional performance** and dependability based on the multi-radio design and the advanced SyncMesh™ architecture that synchronizes and load-balances all backhaul traffic throughout the mesh topology

**Unparalleled scalability** and spectral reuse with high power eight-way antenna arrays that increase range, mitigate the effects of self-interference and readily overcome line-of-site obstructions

**Low total cost of ownership** based on a combination of ease-of-deployment to eliminate the need for complex RF planning and ease-of-operation with intuitive centralized management

**Virtually unlimited flexibility** based on support of 2.4 GHz access, sophisticated traffic management and provisioning capable of supporting VoIP and video surveillance, and the robust security provisions that are essential in a multi-use wireless municipal network



*Leading the Mesh Revolution*

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