



Verizon's Dan Mead to retire; John Stratton is new wireless chief

by Kevin Fitchard 

Feb. 18, 2015 - 10:58 AM PDT



Dan Mead, CEO of Verizon Wireless, is retiring

Verizon made a surprise announcement in a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filing [http://eol.edgarexplorer.com/EFX_dll/EdgarPro.dll?FetchFilingHTML?SessionID=K2o66snO2loPCnu&ID=10495031] on Wednesday. Dan Mead [<http://www.verizon.com/about/our-company/daniel-s-mead/>], Verizon Communications EVP and CEO of Verizon Wireless, is retiring and Verizon's EVP in charge of global enterprise and consumer wireline operations John Stratton, [<http://www.verizon.com/about/our-company/john-g-stratton/>] has taken over the day-to-day operation of Verizon's core mobile business in addition to his wireline duties.

Mead, who became Verizon [<https://search.gigaom.com/company/verizon/>]'s wireless chief in 2010 and is now age 61, isn't leaving the company before finishing a final housekeeping, item though. In the filing, which was first spotted by Wireless Week [[**DOCKET**
A L A R M](http://www.wirelessweek.com/news/2015/02/verizon-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

and President of Strategic Initiatives. His sole responsibility will be overseeing the transfer of Verizon's wireline networks in California, Florida and Texas to Frontier Communications [<https://search.gigaom.com/company/frontier-communications/>], a deal announced earlier this month [<https://gigaom.com/2015/02/05/verizon-to-sell-part-of-its-wireline-biz-to-frontier-for-10-54b/>], after which he is expected to retire.

As for Stratton, he isn't assuming Mead's full title of President and CEO of Verizon Wireless. Instead he was named EVP and President of Operations, but that doesn't necessarily mean his role will be diminished. Verizon Wireless has always had a weird organizational structure because for most of its life it had two corporate parents: Verizon Communications and Vodafone [<https://search.gigaom.com/company/vodafone/>]. Consequently Verizon and Verizon Wireless always had two different CEOs, CTOs and pretty much every other C-level position.

That changed when Verizon bought out Vodafone's stake last year for \$130 billion [<https://gigaom.com/2014/02/21/with-vodafone-deal-final-verizon-wireless-is-now-just-verizon/>]. It looks like Verizon is now taking this opportunity to normalize its executive titles, but as Mead did before him, Stratton will report directly to Verizon's biggest cheese: Chairman and CEO Lowell McAdam.

And in case you're keeping count, Mead's retirement means the number of nationwide carrier chiefs with mustaches is now down from two to a mere one. AT&T [<https://search.gigaom.com/company/att/>] Mobility CEO Ralph de la Vega, wear your stache proudly!

RELATED STORIES



When it comes to privacy, mobile carriers must choose whether they serve customers or advertisers



Vodafone puts out wide-ranging transparency report, hinting at secret surveillance programs

RELATED RESEARCH [subscriber content](#) ?



What You Need to Know About the SoftBank-Sprint Merger



What the consumer tech space can expect in 2015

Tags: TAGS: at&t executives frontier communications verizon
verizon communications vodafone

APPLE CLOUD DATA MEDIA MOBILE SCIENCE & ENERGY SOCIAL & WEB PODCASTS
EDITORIAL TEAM MEDIA KIT



POWERED BY WORDPRESS.COM VIP



NEWS RESEARCH EVENTS

Privacy Policy Terms of Service About Editorial Team Media Kit Contact



2015 Gigaom, Inc. All Rights Reserved.