

AMERICAN TOWER CORP /MA/  
Form DEF 14A  
April 11, 2013  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**SCHEDULE 14A**

(Rule 14a-101)

**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT**

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the**

**Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

(Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement.
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2)).**
- Definitive Proxy Statement.
- Definitive Additional Materials.
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12.

# AMERICAN TOWER CORPORATION

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

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April 11, 2013

Dear Stockholder:

It is a pleasure to invite you to our 2013 Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 11:00 a.m., local time, to be held in the Braemore/Kenmore Room at the Colonnade Hotel, 120 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02116. We have included the official notice of meeting, proxy statement and form of proxy with this letter. The proxy statement describes in detail the matters listed in the notice of meeting.

The vote of every stockholder is important. Therefore, I urge you to vote as soon as possible so that your shares will be represented at the meeting. You may vote your shares over the Internet, or if you received a paper copy of the proxy materials by mail, you can also vote by mail by following the instructions on the proxy card or voting instruction card. Voting over the Internet or by written proxy card or voting instruction card will ensure your representation at the meeting regardless of whether you attend in person. You may withdraw your proxy and vote in person at the meeting if you wish to do so.

Your Board of Directors and management look forward to greeting those of you who are able to attend.

Sincerely,

James D. Taiclet, Jr.  
*Chairman of the Board, President and*

*Chief Executive Officer*

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**AMERICAN TOWER CORPORATION**

**116 Huntington Avenue**

**Boston, Massachusetts 02116**

**NOTICE OF 2013 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**TO BE HELD ON MAY 21, 2013**

To the Stockholders:

The 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of American Tower Corporation, a Delaware corporation, will be held in the Braemore/Kenmore Room at the Colonnade Hotel, 120 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02116, on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 11:00 a.m., local time, to consider and act upon the following matters:

1. To elect nine Directors for the ensuing year or until their successors are elected and qualified;
2. To ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2013;
3. To approve, on an advisory basis, our executive compensation;
4. To approve an amendment to our Amended and Restated By-Laws to reduce the ownership threshold required to call a special meeting of stockholders; and

5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof. Stockholders of record at the close of business on March 26, 2013 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting. Our stock transfer books will remain open for the transfer of our common stock. For a period of ten days prior to the Annual Meeting, a complete list of the stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be available at our principal executive offices for inspection by any stockholder of record for any purpose germane to the Annual Meeting.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Edmund DiSanto  
*Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer,  
General Counsel and Secretary*

Boston, Massachusetts

April 11, 2013

**WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE VOTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE REPRESENTATION OF YOUR SHARES AT THE ANNUAL MEETING. YOU MAY VOTE YOUR SHARES OVER THE INTERNET OR BY MAIL (AS APPLICABLE) BY FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PROXY CARD OR VOTING INSTRUCTION CARD.**

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**AMERICAN TOWER CORPORATION**

**116 Huntington Avenue**

**Boston, Massachusetts 02116**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**FOR THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**TO BE HELD ON MAY 21, 2013**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of American Tower Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the Company), for use at its 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (Annual Meeting) to be held on May 21, 2013, or any adjournments or postponements thereof.

**Notice of Electronic Availability of Proxy-Related Materials and Annual Report to Stockholders**

As permitted by rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), we are making this Proxy Statement and our Annual Report to Stockholders for the year ended December 31, 2012 available electronically via the Internet at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com). Our Annual Report to Stockholders includes a copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, as filed with the SEC on February 27, 2013, except that exhibits are excluded. On or about April 11, 2013, we mailed to our stockholders a Notice containing instructions on how to access this Proxy Statement and our Annual Report and vote over the Internet. If you received the Notice by mail, you will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials in the mail. Instead, the Notice instructs you on how to access and review all of the important information contained in the Proxy Statement and Annual Report over the Internet. The Notice also instructs you on how you may submit your proxy over the Internet. If you received the Notice by mail and would like to receive a printed copy of our proxy materials, you should follow the instructions for requesting those materials included in the Notice.

**Record Date, Voting Rights and Outstanding Shares**

The Board of Directors has fixed March 26, 2013 as the record date for determining holders of our common stock (Common Stock) who are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

With respect to the matters submitted for vote at the Annual Meeting, each share of Common Stock is entitled to one vote. On March 26, 2013, there were 395,612,553 shares of Common Stock outstanding and entitled to vote.

The presence at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding on March 26, 2013, will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. We will count votes withheld, abstentions and broker non-votes as present for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting.

Stockholders who do not attend the Annual Meeting in person may submit proxies over the Internet. Stockholders who have received a paper copy of the proxy materials by mail may also vote by mail in accordance with the instructions on the proxy card or voting instruction card.



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Properly completed and submitted proxy cards and voting instruction cards, and proxies properly completed and submitted over the Internet, if received in time for voting and not revoked, will be voted at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the instructions contained therein.

Directors receiving an affirmative majority of votes cast will be elected (the number of shares cast for a Director nominee must exceed the number of votes cast against that nominee). Similarly, ratification of the selection of our independent registered public accounting firm, the approval, on an advisory basis, of our

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executive compensation and the approval of the amendment to our Amended and Restated By-Laws (By-Laws) each require an affirmative majority of the votes cast (the number of shares cast for the proposal must exceed the number of votes cast against that proposal). We will not count shares that abstain from voting on a particular matter as votes cast for or against such matter.

If a stockholder holds shares through a broker or nominee and does not provide the broker or nominee with specific voting instructions, under the rules that govern brokers or nominees in such circumstances, the stockholder's broker or nominee will have the discretion to vote such shares on routine matters, but not on non-routine matters. As a result:

The stockholder's broker or nominee will not have the authority to exercise discretion to vote such shares with respect to the following proposals, because the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) rules treat these matters as non-routine:

Proposal 1, election of Directors;

Proposal 3, advisory vote on executive compensation; and

Proposal 4, amendment to our By-Laws.

The stockholder's broker or nominee will have the authority to exercise discretion to vote such shares with respect to proposal 2, ratification of the selection of our independent registered public accounting firm, because that matter is treated as routine under the NYSE rules.

Shares held by brokers or nominees who have not received instructions from the beneficial owner (broker non-votes) will be counted as present for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum but will otherwise have no effect on the outcome of the vote on proposals 1, 3 and 4.

If you are a registered shareowner and no instructions are indicated on the proxy materials submitted by you, the shares represented by the proxy will be voted:

FOR the election of the Director nominees named herein;

FOR the ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2013;

FOR the approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement;

FOR the approval of an amendment to our By-Laws to reduce the ownership threshold required to call a special meeting of stockholders; and

In accordance with the judgment of the proxy holders as to any other matter that may be properly brought before the Annual Meeting, or any adjournments or postponements thereof.

## **Voting of Proxies**

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You may vote by any one of the following means:

**By Internet** Stockholders who received a Notice about the Internet availability of our proxy materials may submit proxies over the Internet by following the instructions on the Notice. Stockholders who have received a paper copy of a proxy card or voting instruction card by mail may submit proxies over the Internet by following the instructions on the proxy card or voting instruction card.

**By Mail** Stockholders who have received a paper copy of a proxy card or voting instruction card by mail may submit proxies by completing, signing and dating their proxy card or voting instruction card and mailing it in the accompanying self-addressed envelope. No postage is necessary if mailed in the United States.

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In person, at the Annual Meeting Stockholders who hold shares in their name as the stockholder of record may vote in person at the Annual Meeting. Stockholders who are beneficial owners but not stockholders of record may vote in person at the Annual Meeting only with a legal proxy obtained from their broker, trustee or nominee, as applicable.

### **Say-on-Pay Advisory Vote**

Although the advisory vote on executive compensation is non-binding, our Compensation Committee will consider the results of the vote and take them into account in making future determinations concerning executive compensation.

### **Revocability of Proxies**

Any stockholder giving a proxy has the power to revoke it at any time before it is exercised. You may revoke a proxy by filing an instrument of revocation or a duly executed proxy bearing a later date with our Secretary, at our principal executive offices, 116 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02116. You may revoke a proxy submitted over the Internet and submit a new proxy in its place in accordance with the instructions set forth on the Internet voting website. You may also revoke a proxy by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person. If not revoked, we will vote the proxy at the Annual Meeting in accordance with your instructions indicated on the proxy card or voting instruction card or, if submitted over the Internet, as indicated on the submission.

### **Solicitation**

We will bear all costs of solicitation of proxies. In addition to solicitations by mail, our Board of Directors, our officers and our regular employees, without additional remuneration, may solicit proxies by telephone, facsimile and personal interviews. We will request brokers, banks, custodians and other fiduciaries to forward proxy soliciting materials to the beneficial owners of stock the brokers, banks, custodians and other fiduciaries hold of record. We will reimburse them for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the distribution of the proxy materials.

**Table of Contents****Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management**

The following table sets forth certain information known to us as of March 26, 2013 with respect to the shares of Common Stock that are beneficially owned as of such date by:

each member of our Board of Directors;

each executive officer named in the Summary Compensation Table included in this Proxy Statement;

all Directors and executive officers as a group; and

each person known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of our outstanding Common Stock.

We determined the number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by each person under rules promulgated by the SEC. The information is not necessarily indicative of beneficial ownership for any other purpose. Under these rules, beneficial ownership includes any shares as to which the individual or entity has sole or shared voting power or investment power and also any shares which the individual or entity had the right to acquire within sixty days of March 26, 2013. Accordingly, the number of shares set forth below includes shares underlying the restricted stock units (RSUs) or stock options that are expected to vest prior to May 25, 2013, which we collectively refer to below as presently vested equity. All percentages with respect to our Directors and executive officers are based on the shares of Common Stock outstanding as of March 26, 2013. Except as noted below, each holder has sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of Common Stock listed as beneficially owned by that holder.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Number of Shares	Percent of Common Stock
<b>Directors and Named Executive Officers</b>		
James D. Taiclet, Jr. (1)	1,504,100	*
Thomas A. Bartlett (2)	193,069	*
Edmund DiSanto (3)	420,048	*
Raymond P. Dolan (4)	54,936	*
Ronald M. Dykes (5)	62,964	*
William H. Hess (6)	127,377	*
Carolyn F. Katz (7)	86,304	*
Gustavo Lara Cantu (8)	20,717	*
Steven C. Marshall (9)	245,823	*
JoAnn A. Reed (10)	59,936	*
Pamela D.A. Reeve (11)	74,936	*
David E. Sharbutt (12)	43,971	*
Samme L. Thompson (13)	63,194	*
All executive officers and Directors as a group (15 persons) (14)	3,358,542	*
<b>Five Percent Stockholders</b>		
BlackRock, Inc. (15) 40 East 52 <sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, New York 10022	29,270,857	7.40%
FMR LLC (16) 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109	25,747,259	6.51%
T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. (17) 100 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201	28,888,563	7.30%

\* Less than 1%

- (1) Includes 101,671 shares of Common Stock owned by Mr. Taiclet and presently vested equity with respect to an aggregate of 1,402,429 shares of Common Stock.

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- (2) Includes 16,388 shares of Common Stock owned by Mr. Bartlett and presently vested equity with respect to an aggregate of 176,681 shares of Common Stock.
- (3) Includes 55,630 shares of Common Stock owned by Mr. DiSanto and presently vested equity with respect to an aggregate of 364,418 shares of Common Stock.
- (4) Includes 8,135 shares of Common Stock owned by Mr. Dolan and presently vested equity with respect to an aggregate of 46,801 shares of Common Stock.
- (5) Includes 23,663 shares of Common Stock owned by Mr. Dykes and presently vested equity with respect to an aggregate of 39,301 shares of Common Stock.
- (6) Includes 38,200 shares of Common Stock owned by Mr. Hess and presently vested equity with respect to an aggregate of 89,177 shares of Common Stock.
- (7) Includes 4,503 shares of Common Stock owned by Ms. Katz and presently vested equity with respect to an aggregate of 81,801 shares of Common Stock.
- (8) Includes 10,235 shares of Common Stock owned by Mr. Lara and presently vested equity with respect to an aggregate of 10,482 shares of Common Stock.
- (9) Includes 15,027 shares of Common Stock owned by Mr. Marshall and presently vested equity with respect to an aggregate of 230,796 shares of Common Stock.
- (10) Includes 8,135 shares of Common Stock owned by Ms. Reed and presently vested equity with respect to an aggregate of 51,801 shares of Common Stock.
- (11) Includes 8,135 shares of Common Stock owned by Ms. Reeve and presently vested equity with respect to an aggregate of 66,801 shares of Common Stock.
- (12) Includes 1,822 shares of Common Stock owned by Mr. Sharbutt and presently vested equity with respect to an aggregate of 42,149 shares of Common Stock.
- (13) Includes 16,393 shares of Common Stock owned by Mr. Thompson and presently vested equity with respect to an aggregate of 46,801 shares of Common Stock.
- (14) Includes presently vested equity with respect to an aggregate of 3,005,364 shares of Common Stock.
- (15) Based on a Schedule 13G filed on January 31, 2013, BlackRock, Inc. has sole voting power over 29,270,857 shares of Common Stock, sole dispositive power over 29,270,857 shares of Common Stock and beneficial ownership of 29,270,857 shares of Common Stock.

- (16) Based on a Schedule 13G filed on February 14, 2013, FMR LLC has sole voting power over 2,750,925 shares of Common Stock, sole dispositive power over 25,747,259 shares of Common Stock and beneficial ownership of 25,747,259 shares of Common Stock.
  
- (17) Based on a Schedule 13G/A filed on February 12, 2013, T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. has sole voting power over 7,596,203 shares of Common Stock, sole dispositive power over 28,887,163 shares of Common Stock and beneficial ownership of 28,888,563 shares of Common Stock.



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**PROPOSAL 1**

**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Under our By-Laws, the number of members of our Board of Directors is fixed from time to time by the Board of Directors, but may be increased or decreased either by the stockholders or by the majority of Directors then in office. We currently have nine Directors serving on our Board of Directors.

All nine current Directors are standing for re-election at the Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors has nominated for election as Directors at the Annual Meeting the nine Directors listed below. All of the Directors nominated for election at the Annual Meeting were recommended for nomination to the Board of Directors by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

Directors elected at the Annual Meeting will hold office until the 2014 Annual Meeting or until their successors are elected and qualified, subject to earlier retirement, resignation or removal. Unless otherwise instructed, we will vote all proxies we receive FOR the nominees listed below. If any of the nominees becomes unavailable to serve, we will vote the shares represented by proxies for the election of such other person as the Board of Directors may recommend.

**Required Vote**

Our By-Laws require that each Director receive a majority of the votes properly cast with respect to such Director in uncontested elections (the number of shares voted for a Director nominee must exceed the number of votes cast against that nominee). As the election of Directors at the Annual Meeting is uncontested, the election of Directors requires a majority of the votes cast by, or on behalf of, the holders of Common Stock at the Annual Meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not be considered as votes cast for or against a Director and will have no effect on the results of the election.

If stockholders do not elect a nominee who is serving as a Director, Delaware law provides that the Director would continue to serve on the Board as a holdover director. Under our By-Laws and Corporate Governance Guidelines, each Director is required to submit an irrevocable advance resignation that would be effective if the stockholders do not re-elect that Director and the Board accepts his or her resignation. In that situation, within 90 days from the date that the election results were certified, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee would make a recommendation to the Board about whether to accept or reject the resignation. The Board would then take action and promptly disclose its decision and underlying rationale in a filing with the SEC.

**The Board of Directors recommends that you vote FOR the election of each nominee listed below to serve as Director until the next Annual Meeting or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.**

Our Directors bring a wealth of leadership and management experience, as well as prior board experience. The process undertaken by our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee in selecting qualified Director candidates is described below under Corporate Governance Selection of Director Candidates in this Proxy Statement. Certain individual qualifications and skills of our Directors that contribute to the Board's effectiveness and success are described in the Director biographies below.

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Set forth below are the name and age of each Director, his or her principal occupation and business experience during the past five years, and the names of other publicly traded companies where he or she served as a Director during the past five years, each as of March 26, 2013.

<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Principal Occupations and Business Experience During the Past Five Years</b>
<p>James D. Taiclet, Jr.  Age 52</p>	<p>James D. Taiclet, Jr. is our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Taiclet was appointed President and Chief Operating Officer in September 2001, was named Chief Executive Officer in October 2003 and was selected as Chairman of the Board in February 2004. Prior to joining us, Mr. Taiclet served as President of Honeywell Aerospace Services, a unit of Honeywell International since March 1999. From March 1996 until March 1999, Mr. Taiclet served as Vice President, Engine Services at Pratt &amp; Whitney, a unit of United Technologies Corporation. He was also previously a consultant at McKinsey &amp; Company, specializing in telecommunications and aerospace strategy and operations. Mr. Taiclet began his career as a United States Air Force officer and pilot. He holds a Masters Degree in Public Affairs from Princeton University, where he was awarded a Fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson School, and is a Distinguished Graduate of the United States Air Force Academy with majors in Engineering and International Relations. Mr. Taiclet serves on the Board of Trustees of Brigham and Women's Healthcare, Inc., in Boston, Massachusetts. He is also a member of the Corporate Advisory Board of the Boston Club. We believe Mr. Taiclet is qualified to sit on our Board of Directors based on his years of executive and corporate governance experience, including his tenure as our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, as well as his operational, international and strategic experience with global technology and wireless communications companies.</p>
<p>Raymond P. Dolan  Age 55</p>	<p>Mr. Dolan has been a Director since February 2003. In January 2004, Mr. Dolan was appointed to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and in February 2005, he was appointed the Chairperson. From February 2003 to May 2011, Mr. Dolan served on the Compensation Committee. Mr. Dolan is the President, Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board of Directors of Sonus Networks, Inc., a supplier of voice, video and data infrastructure solutions for wireline and wireless telephone service providers, a position he was appointed to in October 2010. Until January 2008, Mr. Dolan served as Chief Executive Officer of QUALCOMM Flarion Technologies and Senior Vice President at QUALCOMM. Prior to that, Mr. Dolan had been Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Flarion Technologies, Inc., a provider of mobile broadband communications systems, from May 2000 until its acquisition by QUALCOMM in January 2006. From 1996 until May 2000, Mr. Dolan was Chief Operating Officer of NextWave Telecom. Prior to joining NextWave, he was Executive Vice President of Marketing for Bell Atlantic/NYNEX Mobile. Mr. Dolan served on the board of directors of NII Holdings, Inc. from July 2008 to May 2012. We believe Mr. Dolan is qualified to sit on our Board of Directors based on his years of leadership in the wireless communications industry, combined with his international, operational, strategic and corporate governance expertise acquired through his management and board experience.</p>
<p>Ronald M. Dykes  Age 66</p>	<p>Mr. Dykes has been a Director since March 2007 and was appointed to the Audit Committee in July 2007. Mr. Dykes most recently served as Chief Financial Officer of BellSouth Corporation, a position he retired from in 2005. Prior to his retirement, Mr. Dykes had worked for BellSouth Corporation and its predecessor entities in various capacities for over 34 years. Mr. Dykes served on the board of directors of Burger King Holdings, Inc. and chaired its audit committee from 2007 through</p>

**Table of Contents****Nominee****Principal Occupations and Business Experience During the Past Five Years**

October 2010. From October 2000 through December 31, 2005, Mr. Dykes also served as a director of Cingular Wireless, most recently as Chairman of the Board. We believe Mr. Dykes is qualified to sit on our Board of Directors based on his extensive management experience in communications network operations, his financial expertise with companies in the wireless communications sector, his substantial experience as a director for public companies and his years of providing strategic development and advisory services to global companies.

Carolyn F. Katz

Age 51

Ms. Katz has been a Director since February 2004 and was appointed to the Audit Committee in April 2004. In May 2007, Ms. Katz was appointed as Chairperson of the Audit Committee. From April 2004 to May 2009, Ms. Katz served on the Compensation Committee. Ms. Katz is currently serving as Executive Chairman of Author & Company, a digital publishing company. From May 2000 to October 2001, Ms. Katz served as a principal of Providence Equity Partners Inc., a private investment firm specializing in equity investments in telecommunications and media companies. From June 1984 to April 2000, Ms. Katz was employed by Goldman, Sachs & Co., most recently as a Managing Director and co-head of Emerging Communications. Ms. Katz currently serves on the board of directors of NII Holdings, Inc. We believe Ms. Katz is qualified to sit on our Board of Directors based on her extensive knowledge of global capital markets and investment matters, as well as her financial acumen and board experience with public companies in the wireless communications industry.

Gustavo Lara Cantu

Age 63

Mr. Lara has been a Director since November 2004 and was appointed to the Compensation Committee in May 2009. From February 2005 to May 2009, Mr. Lara served on the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Mr. Lara most recently served as Chief Executive Officer of the Monsanto Company's Latin America North division, a position he retired from in 2004. Prior to his retirement, Mr. Lara had worked for the Monsanto Company in various capacities for over 24 years. We believe Mr. Lara is qualified to sit on our Board of Directors based on his executive and corporate governance experience with a global company, combined with his insight into business operations in Latin America, and his knowledge of financial and business developments in Mexico.

JoAnn A. Reed

Age 57

Ms. Reed has been a Director since May 2007 and was appointed to the Audit Committee in November 2007. Ms. Reed is currently serving as a healthcare services consultant. Ms. Reed previously served as the Senior Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer of Medco Health Solutions, Inc., a leading pharmacy benefit manager, until March 2008. Upon joining Medco in 1988, Ms. Reed served in finance and accounting roles of increasing responsibility and was appointed Senior Vice President, Finance in 1992 and Chief Financial Officer in 1996. Prior to joining Medco, Ms. Reed's experience included finance roles at Aetna/American Re-Insurance Co., CBS Inc., Standard and Poor's Corp. and Unisys/Timeplex Inc. Ms. Reed currently serves on the board of directors of Waters Corp. and as a Trustee for St. Mary's College of Notre Dame, Indiana. We believe Ms. Reed is qualified to sit on our Board of Directors based on her financial expertise, board experience and her more than 25 years of leadership experience with multinational companies in financial, strategic and business development initiatives.

Pamela D.A. Reeve

Age 63

Ms. Reeve has been a Director since March 2002 and has served as the Lead Director of the Board since May 2004. In April 2004, Ms. Reeve was appointed to the Compensation Committee, and served as its Chairperson from that date until May 2009. In May 2009, Ms. Reeve was re-appointed to the Nominating and

**Table of Contents****Nominee****Principal Occupations and Business Experience During the Past Five Years**

Corporate Governance Committee, having served on that Committee from August 2002 to February 2005. Ms. Reeve also served on the Audit Committee from August 2002 to July 2007. From November 1989 to August 2004, Ms. Reeve was the President and Chief Executive Officer and a director of Lightbridge, Inc., a global provider of mobile business solutions, offering products and services for the wireless communications industry. Prior to joining Lightbridge in 1989, Ms. Reeve spent 11 years as a consultant and in a series of executive positions at the Boston Consulting Group, Inc. Ms. Reeve currently serves on the board of directors of Frontier Communications Corporation, and had previously served as a director of NMS Communications Corp. and Livewire Mobile, Inc. We believe Ms. Reeve is qualified to sit on our Board of Directors based on her extensive leadership, operational, strategic and corporate governance expertise particularly in the communications and technology industries, combined with her financial expertise and historical knowledge of the Company resulting from serving on our Board for over a decade.

David E. Sharbutt

Mr. Sharbutt has been a Director since July 2006 and was appointed to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee in May 2007. Mr. Sharbutt also served on the Audit Committee from May 2007 to November 2007. Mr. Sharbutt most recently served as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Alamosa Holdings, Inc., a provider of wireless communications services, which was acquired by Sprint Nextel Corporation in February 2006. Mr. Sharbutt had been Alamosa's Chairman and a director since Alamosa was founded in July 1998 and was named Chief Executive Officer of Alamosa in October 1999. Mr. Sharbutt was formerly the President and Chief Executive Officer of Hicks & Ragland Engineering Co., an engineering consulting company, now known as CHR Solutions. While at CHR Solutions, Mr. Sharbutt worked with independent telephone companies in developing strategic, engineering and implementation plans for various types of telecommunications services. Mr. Sharbutt currently serves as a director of Flat Wireless, LLC, a private company. We believe Mr. Sharbutt is qualified to sit on our Board of Directors based on his leadership and board experience with wireless communications companies and his financial expertise, as well as his strategic, operational and advisory roles in leading complex telecommunications enterprises.

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Samme L. Thompson

Mr. Thompson has been a Director since August 2005 and was appointed to the Compensation Committee in May 2006. In May 2009, he was appointed as Chairperson of the Compensation Committee. Mr. Thompson served as a director of SpectraSite, Inc. from June 2004 until our merger with SpectraSite in August 2005. From 2002 to present, Mr. Thompson has served as the President of Telit Associates, Incorporated, a financial and strategic advisory firm. Mr. Thompson worked for Motorola, Inc. as Senior Vice President and Director, Strategy and Corporate Development from 1999 to 2002. Mr. Thompson's prior work experience includes serving as Director of Strategic Planning and Development with AT&T Information Systems, as Senior Vice President with Kidder, Peabody & Co. and as a strategy consultant with McKinsey & Company. Mr. Thompson has over 35 years of management experience and currently serves on the board of directors of USA Mobility, Inc. Prior to the merger between Arch Wireless, Inc. and Metrocall Holdings, Inc. to form USA Mobility, Inc., Mr. Thompson was a director at Arch Wireless, Inc. We believe Mr. Thompson is qualified to sit on our Board of Directors based on his strategic and global advisory experience, combined with his prior board experience with companies in the wireless communications industry.

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### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

#### **General**

The role of our Board of Directors is to oversee how the Company is managed for the long-term benefit of our stockholders and other stakeholders. To fulfill this role, the Board has adopted corporate governance principles to ensure full and complete compliance with all applicable corporate governance standards. In addition, the Board has established reporting protocols to ensure that it is informed regarding the Company's activities and periodically reviews, and advises management with respect to, the Company's annual operating plans and strategic initiatives.

During the past year, we have continued to review our corporate governance policies and practices and to compare them to those suggested by various corporate governance authorities and by the practices of other public companies. We have also continued to review guidance and interpretations provided by the SEC and the NYSE. Accordingly, in September 2012, after each committee's review of its respective charter, certain revisions were made to each charter, as well as our Corporate Governance Guidelines and Code of Ethics and Business Conduct Policy (Code of Conduct). You can access our current committee charters, Corporate Governance Guidelines and Code of Conduct in the Investors section of our website, [www.americantower.com](http://www.americantower.com), or by writing to: American Tower Corporation, 116 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02116, Attention: Investor Relations.

#### **Annual Evaluation**

Our Board of Directors conducts annual evaluations of its performance and that of each of its three standing committees. In 2012, the Board hired an independent consultant to design and implement a process for these self-evaluations. Using a set of prepared questions as a guide, the consultant conducted interview and discussion sessions with the members of each of the committees and the full Board. The information gathered in these sessions was reported to, and reviewed by, our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, which used these results to review and assess the Board's composition, responsibilities, structure, processes and effectiveness. This report was then presented to the full Board. We expect to conduct similar Board and committee self-evaluations in 2013.

#### **Orientation and Education**

Each newly elected Director is required to participate in a customized Board orientation program at our corporate headquarters that includes information on our corporate governance policies and briefings by each of our senior operational and functional leaders on the Company's business and practices. In addition, we offer customized standing committee orientation programs to our Directors upon a new appointment to a standing committee on which he or she has not previously served. We are committed to the ongoing education of our Directors, and from time to time conduct presentations to the Board of Directors regarding corporate governance processes and practices, our business and our industry, for which we typically utilize external experts. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee periodically reviews the Director training initiatives to determine whether additional programs are needed. Additionally, we encourage each independent Director to attend annually at least one board education course offered by either an academic institution or a professional service organization at the Company's expense.

#### **Determination of Independence**

Under the NYSE rules, a Director of the Company only qualifies as "independent" if the Board of Directors affirmatively determines that the Director has no material relationship with the Company (either directly or as a partner, stockholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with the Company). Included in the NYSE rules are bright-line standards for independence. The effect of the NYSE rules is to create a two-step process for determining independence. First, a Director must satisfy the bright-line standards for independence established by the NYSE. Second, the Board must affirmatively determine that the Director has no material relationship with the Company.

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As set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, the Board has established guidelines to assist it in determining whether a Director has a material relationship with the Company. Under these guidelines, a Director is not considered to have a material relationship with the Company solely on the grounds that he or she:

is an executive officer or employee, or has an immediate family member who is an executive officer, of a company that makes payments to, or receives payments from, us for property or services, unless the amount of such payments or receipts, in any of the three fiscal years preceding the determination, exceeded the greater of \$1 million or two percent (2%) of such other company's consolidated gross revenues; or

is an executive officer of another company which is indebted to us, or to which we are indebted, unless the total amount of either company's indebtedness to the other is more than five percent (5%) of the total consolidated assets of the company for which he or she serves as an executive officer; or

is a director of another company that does business with us, provided that he or she owns less than five percent (5%) of the outstanding capital stock of the other company and recuses himself or herself from any deliberations of our Board with respect to such other company; or

serves as an executive officer of any tax-exempt organization, unless our charitable contributions to the organization, in any of the three fiscal years preceding the determination, exceeded the greater of \$1 million or two percent (2%) of such charitable organization's consolidated gross revenues.

In addition, ownership of a significant amount of Common Stock, by itself, does not constitute a material relationship.

For relationships not covered by the guidelines set forth above, the determination of whether a material relationship exists is made by the other members of the Board who are independent (as defined above).

Based on their compliance with the guidelines established by the Board, the Board has determined that each of our non-management Directors has no material relationship with the Company and is independent under Section 303A.02 of the NYSE listing standards. In making its assessment, the Board determined that each of Messrs. Dykes and Lara and Ms. Reed had no relationship with the Company, other than being a Director or stockholder. With respect to Messrs. Dolan, Sharbutt and Thompson and Meses. Katz and Reeve, the Board determined that only immaterial relationships existed with the Company. Specifically, the Board considered that Messrs. Dolan, Sharbutt and Thompson and Meses. Katz and Reeve currently serve or have served as directors of companies that do business with us, as follows: Mr. Dolan served as a director of NII Holdings, Inc. until May 2012, Ms. Katz currently serves as a director of NII Holdings, Inc., Ms. Reeve currently serves as a director of Frontier Communications Corporation, Mr. Sharbutt currently serves as a director of Flat Wireless, LLC and Mr. Thompson currently serves as a director of USA Mobility, Inc. In each case, the Board determined that such service was in accordance with the NYSE listing standards and our Corporate Governance Guidelines in that none of these Directors beneficially own five percent (5%) or more of the outstanding capital stock of such companies and each recuses himself or herself from deliberations of the Board with respect to such companies.

## **Selection of Director Candidates**

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee works with the Board of Directors annually to review the characteristics, skills and experience of the Board as a whole and its individual members and to assess those traits against the needs identified to benefit the Company, its management and its stockholders. The process followed by the Committee to identify and evaluate Director candidates includes requests to Board members and others for recommendations, meetings from time to time to evaluate biographical information and background material relating to potential candidates and interviews of selected candidates by members of the Committee and the Board of Directors.

In considering whether to recommend any particular candidate for inclusion in the Board's slate of recommended Director nominees, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee applies the criteria set



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forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines. These criteria include a candidate's financial expertise, as well as a candidate's prior experience in a leadership/executive role, operational experience, wireless industry experience, international experience, strategic experience, technology experience and prior board and governance experience. The Committee has determined that these desired skills, capabilities and experiences are relevant to the success of a large publicly traded company in today's business environment and understanding of our business. While the Committee does not assign specific weights to these criteria, any Director candidate is expected to possess several of these criteria to serve on our Board. A description of the individual criteria that led our Board to conclude that each of the candidates should serve as a Director until our next Annual Meeting follows the biographical information of each candidate set forth above.

In addition to reviewing the qualifications and criteria of Director candidates, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers whether a candidate has agreed to tender an irrevocable advance resignation in accordance with the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines. In determining whether to recommend a Director for re-election, the Committee also considers the Director's past attendance at meetings and participation in, and contributions to, the activities of the Board.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also focuses on issues of diversity, such as traditional diversity categories such as gender, race and national origin, as well as diversity and differences in viewpoints and skills. While the Committee does not have a formal policy with respect to diversity, the Committee seeks to create a Board that is strong in its collective knowledge and has a diversity of skills, ability and experience to allow the Board the opportunity to successfully fulfill its responsibilities. The Committee evaluates each individual Director candidate in the context of the Board as a whole. In considering candidates for the Board, the Committee strives to recommend a group that can best perpetuate and enhance the success of the business and represent stockholder interests through the exercise of sound judgment using the group's diversity of experience.

Stockholders may recommend individuals to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee for consideration as potential Director candidates by submitting the candidates' names, together with appropriate biographical information and background materials to Raymond P. Dolan, Chairperson of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, c/o General Counsel, American Tower Corporation, 116 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02116. Assuming that appropriate biographical and background material is provided for candidates recommended by stockholders, the Committee will evaluate those candidates by following substantially the same process, and applying substantially the same criteria, as for candidates submitted by Board members. The Committee will specifically review the candidate's qualifications in light of the needs of the Board and the Company at that time, given the current mix of Director attributes. Stockholders proposing Director nominations must comply with the advance notice and specific information requirements set forth in our By-Laws, which provide among other things, disclosure of hedging, derivative interests and other material interests of that stockholder and the Director nominee. In addition, each Director nominee proposed by a stockholder must deliver a statement that, promptly following the stockholder meeting at which such nominee is elected or re-elected, he or she agrees to tender an irrevocable advance resignation in accordance with the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines.

## **Stock Ownership Guidelines**

To encourage significant stock ownership by our executive officers and Directors, further align the interests of our leadership with those of our stockholders and promote our commitment to sound corporate governance, the Board implemented stock ownership guidelines in January 2012. Each executive officer and Director is expected to beneficially own American Tower stock equal in market value to a specified multiple of his or her annual base salary or annual cash retainer, as applicable. The guideline for the Chief Executive Officer is five times his or her base salary and for the other executive officers is three times his or her base salary. The guideline for each non-management Director is five times the annual cash retainer. Each executive officer and non-management Director has five years to attain his or her ownership target.



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In addition to actual shares held, unvested time-based restricted stock units and in-the-money vested options are counted for determining compliance with these guidelines. The Compensation Committee administers these stock ownership guidelines, and may modify their terms and grant hardship exceptions in its discretion. As of March 26, 2013, each executive officer and Director exceeded these stock ownership requirements.

### **Communications from Stockholders and Other Interested Parties**

The Board will give appropriate attention to written communications submitted by stockholders and other interested parties, and will respond if and as appropriate. The Board has designated the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, which consists solely of independent Directors, to consider and determine responses to communications from stockholders and other interested parties. Stockholders and other interested parties who wish to send communications on any topic to the Board and its non-management Directors should address such communications to Raymond P. Dolan, Chairperson of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, c/o General Counsel, American Tower Corporation, 116 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02116. Stockholders proposing Director nominations or any other business for consideration at a meeting of stockholders must comply with the advance notice and related provisions set forth in our By-Laws.

Absent unusual circumstances or as otherwise contemplated by our committee charters, the Chairperson of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will, with the assistance of our General Counsel, (1) be primarily responsible for monitoring communications from stockholders, and (2) provide copies or summaries of such communications to the other Directors as he or she considers appropriate. Communications will be forwarded to all Directors if those communications relate to substantive matters and include suggestions or comments that the Chairperson of the Committee considers to be important for the Directors to know. In general, communications relating to corporate governance and long-term corporate strategy are more likely to be forwarded than communications relating to ordinary business affairs or matters that are personal or that are otherwise not relevant to the Company, including mass mailings and repetitive or duplicative communications.

### **Board Leadership Structure and its Role in the Oversight of Risk**

The Board of Directors is led by our President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Taiclet. Mr. Taiclet assumed the role of Chairman of the Board in February 2004. In May 2004, Ms. Reeve was appointed Lead Director, and she continues to serve the Board in this role. Mr. Taiclet is the only management Director and Ms. Reeve was selected by the independent Directors.

The Lead Director assists the Chairman in communicating with, and assigning tasks to, the other Board members. Moreover, the Lead Director, after obtaining input from the independent Directors, works with the Chairman to establish agendas for upcoming Board meetings and reviews the meeting schedule to assure that there is sufficient time for discussion of all agenda items. The agendas are then distributed in advance of the Board meetings to the independent Directors for any further input. The Lead Director prepares and conducts the annual performance review of the Chief Executive Officer, with input from each Director on the Chief Executive Officer's performance and achievements during the year and from the Compensation Committee on proposed compensation matters. Additionally, the Lead Director serves as chairperson of all meetings of the Board at which the Chairman is not present, including the Board's executive sessions of non-management Directors, as defined under the NYSE rules. Executive sessions of non-management Directors are held at least four times a year on a quarterly basis, and any non-management Director, including the Lead Director, can request that an additional executive session be scheduled. The purpose of these executive sessions is to promote open and candid discussion among the non-management Directors to consider, among other things, governance, operational and strategic issues or concerns.

We believe that having a single Chairman and Chief Executive Officer with a strong Lead Director, complemented by an independent Board of Directors, has provided the appropriate balance and has helped contribute to our pursuit of sound corporate governance and board effectiveness. We believe that having our Chief Executive Officer, the individual most familiar with our day-to-day operations, chair regular Board

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meetings ensures that key business issues and stockholder interests are brought to the attention of our Board. The current board leadership structure offers directional clarity and allows our Board to operate more effectively and efficiently by focusing on the shared interests of the Company. This leadership structure promotes effective communication between the Board and management, which directly benefits our stockholders and other stakeholders.

The Board oversees the management of the Company's risk exposure. At each Board meeting, management presents information concerning strategic and operational risks to the Company's primary business goals and initiatives in each geographic area and each functional group, as well as the Company's mitigation efforts related to those risks. The Lead Director regularly engages with the other independent Directors to discuss management's assessment of those risks in executive sessions to determine whether further review or action by the full Board or a particular committee is necessary or appropriate. In addition, each year, one Board meeting is dedicated to reviewing the Company's strategies, including consideration of significant risks facing the Company.

The Company also conducts periodic enterprise risk management assessments and surveys to help management identify risks and develop mitigation procedures and measures, and assess their effectiveness. These results are then presented to the full Board of Directors. It is the responsibility of the Board to understand the Company's most significant risks, to ensure that management is responding appropriately, and to make risk-informed strategic decisions. In its oversight capacity, the Board of Directors monitors risk exposure to ensure it is consistent and in balance with the Company's overall tolerance for, and ability to manage, risk.

Our standing committees, which are composed of independent directors, most of whom have had extensive experience in providing strategic and advisory services to other public companies, assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibility for oversight of the evaluation of the Company's risk and policies for risk management and assessment. At each regularly scheduled meeting, the Chairperson of each standing committee provides the full Board with a report, which includes any identified risks associated with the committee's respective principal focus areas.

The Audit Committee has primary responsibility for assisting the Board with risk oversight for the Company overall. In particular, the Audit Committee considers audit, accounting, financial reporting and compliance risk, including material litigation instituted against the Company and the resolution of issues raised through our Ethics Committee process. In connection with its risk oversight role, at each regularly scheduled meeting, the Audit Committee also holds separate executive sessions that often include representatives from the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, risk management and internal audit department, finance department and legal department to identify and assess risks and oversee the methodologies management implements to address those risks.

The Compensation Committee assesses and balances risk in our compensation practices, programs and policies. Together with its independent compensation consultant and management, the Compensation Committee annually reviews the Company's compensation programs for all employees to determine if any elements of these plans create an inappropriate level of risk and to oversee management's methods to mitigate any potential risks.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee oversees risks associated with board composition, including the current directors' skill sets and anticipated future needs of the Company, as well as risks associated with the Company's corporate governance structure and related party transactions.

The Board's role in risk oversight of the Company complements the Company's leadership structure, with senior management having responsibility for assessing and managing our risk exposure, and the Board and its committees providing oversight in connection with those efforts. We believe this division of responsibility is an effective approach to addressing the risks facing the Company and supports our current Board leadership structure, as it allows our independent Directors to evaluate the Company's risks and policies for risk

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management and assessment through fully independent Board committees, with ultimate oversight by the full Board as led by our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and independent Lead Director.

**Approval of Related Party Transactions**

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines include a policy for the review and approval of all transactions involving the Company and related parties by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Under the policy, related parties mean our executive officers and Directors and stockholders owning in excess of five percent (5%) of our Common Stock, as well as any such person's immediate family members. The policy also covers entities that are owned or controlled by related parties, or entities in or of which related parties have a substantial ownership interest or control. The policy covers any transaction that is not available to employees or Directors generally and any transaction equal to or exceeding \$120,000 in which related parties have a direct or indirect material interest.

Under the policy, management will recommend to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee any related party transaction to be entered into by the Company, including the proposed aggregate value of the transaction. After review, the Committee will approve or disapprove the transaction and management will continue to update the Committee as to any material change to that proposed transaction. In the event a related party transaction is entered into by management prior to approval by the Committee, the transaction will be subject to ratification by the Committee. If ratification is not forthcoming, management will make all reasonable efforts to cancel or annul the transaction.

**Board of Directors Meetings and Committees**

During the year ended December 31, 2012, our Board held four regular meetings in person and seven special meetings in person or by telephone. Each current Director attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of meetings of our Board and the committees on which he or she served during the period that he or she was in office. Each of the nine Directors standing for re-election at the Annual Meeting was serving as a Director as of our 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. All nine Directors attended the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders in person. We encourage, but do not require, Directors to attend our annual meeting of stockholders.

The Board currently has three standing committees: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Each committee has a charter that has been approved by the Board. These charters, along with our Corporate Governance Guidelines, are reviewed annually and amended, as necessary. All of the current members of each of the Board's three standing committees are independent as defined under the NYSE rules, including, in the case of all members of the Audit Committee, the additional independence requirements of Rule 10A-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Exchange Act).

The current membership of each standing committee, the number of meetings held by each standing committee during the year ended December 31, 2012, and other descriptive information is summarized below.

<b>Director</b>	<b>Audit Committee</b>	<b>Compensation Committee</b>	<b>Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee</b>
Raymond P. Dolan			Chair
Ronald M. Dykes	X		
Carolyn F. Katz	Chair		
Gustavo Lara Cantu		X	
JoAnn A. Reed	X		
Pamela D.A. Reeve (1)		X	X
David E. Sharbutt			X
James D. Taiclet, Jr. (2)			
Samme L. Thompson		Chair	
Total meetings in 2012	9	7	4

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(1) Ms. Reeve is the Lead Director of the Board.

(2) Mr. Taiclet is the Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer and currently the sole management Director. *Audit Committee.* Our Audit Committee consists of Ms. Katz (Chairperson), Mr. Dykes and Ms. Reed, each of whom was determined to be an audit committee financial expert under the SEC rules and to have the accounting and/or related financial management expertise required under the NYSE rules. In addition, our Board of Directors has determined that each member of the Audit Committee is financially literate. None of the members serve on the audit committees of more than two other public companies.

During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Audit Committee held nine meetings. The meetings were designed to facilitate and encourage communications between members of the Committee, management, our internal auditors and our independent registered public accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche LLP. Our Audit Committee oversees management's conduct of our financial reporting processes and meets privately, outside the presence of management, with our independent registered public accounting firm to discuss our internal accounting controls and policies and procedures. Among other things, the Committee's responsibilities include the selection and evaluation of our independent registered public accounting firm, the oversight of our systems of internal accounting and financial controls, the review of the annual independent audit of our financial statements, the review of our financial disclosures, the review and implementation of our Code of Conduct, the establishment and implementation of whistle-blowing procedures and the oversight of risk and other compliance matters.

*Compensation Committee.* Our Compensation Committee consists of Mr. Thompson (Chairperson), Mr. Lara and Ms. Reeve. During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Compensation Committee held seven meetings. The primary responsibilities of the Committee are to assist the Board in establishing compensation policies for the Board and our executive officers, including approval of any employment agreements or arrangements with executive officers. The Committee also reviews and approves individual and overall corporate goals and objectives related to executive compensation, evaluates executive performance in light of those goals and objectives, and determines executive compensation levels based on this evaluation, including as it relates to our President and Chief Executive Officer. This Committee also administers our equity incentive plans, approving any proposed amendments or modifications thereto, assesses and balances risk in our compensation policies and programs, administers our stock ownership guidelines, regularly reviews executive compensation market trends and makes recommendations for changes to programs or processes accordingly, and reviews Committee reports for inclusion in appropriate regulatory filings. For more information on the role of the Committee and our processes and procedures for the consideration and determination of executive compensation, see our Compensation Discussion and Analysis included in this Proxy Statement.

In establishing and reviewing compensation practices, programs and policies, the Compensation Committee, together with its independent compensation consultant and management, annually reviews the specific factors and criteria underlying the Company's compensation plans for all employees to determine whether any elements create an inappropriate level of risk, as well as methods to mitigate any potential identified risks. In conducting its review, the Committee asks critical questions and considers, among other things, whether each plan provides for an overachievement mechanism or cap on bonus opportunity, the existence of discretionary authority, whether payouts are linked to overall Company goals, the timing of prospective payments, the inclusion of certain windfall or clawback provisions, the contribution of the awards to a participant's total mix of compensation, and any risk-mitigating factors.

*Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.* Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee consists of Mr. Dolan (Chairperson), Ms. Reeve and Mr. Sharbutt. During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee held four meetings. This Committee establishes performance criteria for the annual evaluation of the Board and its committees and oversees the annual self-evaluation by Board members. This Committee identifies and recommends qualified individuals to serve on the

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Board and its committees. In addition, this Committee develops and makes recommendations with respect to our Corporate Governance Guidelines (including the appropriate size, composition and responsibilities of the Board and its committees), regularly reviews corporate governance best practices and market trends, approves or ratifies all related party transactions, responds to stockholder requests and inquiries, reviews Director training initiatives, and generally advises the Board with respect to Board committee charters, composition and protocol.

### **Audit Committee Report**

The Audit Committee reviewed the Company's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 and discussed these financial statements with the Company's management, including a discussion of the quality, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments and the clarity of disclosures in the financial statements. Management is responsible for the Company's financial reporting process, including its system of internal controls, and for the preparation of consolidated financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The Company's independent registered public accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche LLP, is responsible for performing an independent audit of the Company's financial statements in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and issuing a report on those financial statements and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. The Audit Committee's responsibility is to monitor and review these processes. The Audit Committee also reviewed and discussed with Deloitte & Touche LLP the audited financial statements and the matters required by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended (Communication with Audit Committees).

The Company's independent registered public accounting firm also provided the Audit Committee with the written disclosures and the letter required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB regarding the independent public accounting firm's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence. The Audit Committee has discussed with the independent registered accounting firm its independence and has considered whether such firm's provision of other, non-audit related services to the Company is compatible with maintaining such auditors independence.

Based on its discussions with management and the independent registered public accounting firm, and its review of information provided by management and the independent registered public accounting firm, the Audit Committee recommended to the Company's Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

By the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of American Tower Corporation.

#### AUDIT COMMITTEE

Carolyn F. Katz, Chairperson

Ronald M. Dykes

JoAnn A. Reed

**Table of Contents****Independent Auditor Fees and Other Matters**

The following table presents the aggregate fees billed for services rendered by Deloitte & Touche LLP for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011 (in thousands):

	2012	2011
Audit Fees	\$ 4,098	\$ 3,626
Audit Related Fees	2,487	2,036
Tax Fees	1,132	714
Total Fees	\$ 7,717	\$ 6,376

*Audit Fees.* These fees relate to professional services rendered in connection with the annual audit of our consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting, the reviews of the condensed consolidated financial statements performed in connection with each of our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, consultations regarding accounting and financial reporting and statutory audits required by foreign jurisdictions.

*Audit Related Fees.* Audit related fees primarily include fees for certain services that are not required for purposes of the audit of our consolidated financial statements or for statutory or regulatory requirements. In 2012, these fees primarily include \$1.1 million related to valuation review and incremental assurance services performed in connection with strategic transactions, which are non-recurring in nature, and due diligence and services performed in connection with financing activities. In 2011, these fees primarily include \$0.9 million related to valuation review and incremental assurance services performed in connection with strategic transactions, which are non-recurring in nature, due diligence and our reorganization to operate as a real estate investment trust (REIT), as well as services performed in connection with financing activities and review of tax accounting matters.

*Tax Fees.* These fees include fees for consulting services related to tax planning, advice and assistance with international and other tax matters.

*Audit Committee Pre-approval Policy and Procedures.* The Audit Committee has adopted policies and procedures relating to the approval of all audit and non-audit services to be performed by our independent registered public accounting firm. This policy provides that we will not engage our independent registered public accounting firm to render audit or non-audit services unless the service is specifically approved in advance by the Audit Committee or the engagement is entered into pursuant to one of the pre-approval procedures described below.

From time to time, the Audit Committee may pre-approve specified types of services that are expected to be provided to us by our independent registered public accounting firm during the next twelve months. Any such pre-approval is detailed as to the particular service or type of services to be provided. The Audit Committee may also delegate to any Audit Committee member the authority to approve any audit or non-audit services to be provided by our independent registered public accounting firm. Any approval of services by an Audit Committee member pursuant to this delegated authority is to be reported at the next meeting of the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee approved all of the services described above in accordance with its pre-approval policies and procedures.

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**COMPENSATION AND OTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

**Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

*The following compensation discussion and analysis summarizes our philosophy and objectives regarding the compensation of our named executive officers, including how we determine the elements and amounts of executive compensation. This discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with our tabular disclosures regarding the compensation of our named executive officers in the year ended December 31, 2012 and the report of the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors, which can be found on page 36 of this Proxy Statement.*

In accordance with SEC rules and regulations, our named executive officers for the year ended December 31, 2012 include our Chief Executive Officer, our Chief Financial Officer and the three other most highly compensated executive officers who were serving as executive officers on December 31, 2012. Accordingly, our named executive officers for the year ended December 31, 2012 consist of the following five individuals:

James D. Taiclet, Jr., Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer

Thomas A. Bartlett, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

William H. Hess, Executive Vice President, International Operations and President, Latin America and EMEA

Steven C. Marshall, Executive Vice President and President, U.S. Tower Division

Edmund DiSanto, Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer, General Counsel and Secretary

For a complete list of our current executive officers, see Part III, Item 10 in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, filed with the SEC on February 27, 2013.

**Executive Summary**

The guiding principle of our executive compensation philosophy is to pay for performance, in that we reward our executive officers for Company and individual performance. Performance bonus and long-term, equity-based compensation vary based on the Company's achievement of financial, operational and strategic goals, and on each executive's contributions to such achievement. This direct link between incentive payouts and achievement of goals has helped drive our strong and consistent performance year after year. The following chart demonstrates that the cumulative total shareholder returns on the Company's Common Stock have exceeded our peer group companies (set forth on page 25 of this Proxy Statement) and the S&P 500 Index for each of the one-, three-, five- and ten-year periods ended December 31, 2012.

**Table of Contents****Impact of our Business Results in 2012 on Compensation Determinations**

Fiscal year 2012 marked another year of significant growth for us. Our financial highlights are noted in the table below and demonstrate how we have continued to grow our business from the prior year:

Financial Measure (\$ in millions)	Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012	Percent Change (1)
Total Revenue	\$ 2,444	\$ 2,876	18%
Total Rental and Management Revenue	\$ 2,386	\$ 2,803	17%
Operating Income	\$ 920	\$ 1,120	22%
Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$ 1,166	\$ 1,414	21%
Adjusted EBITDA (2)	\$ 1,595	\$ 1,892	19%

(1) This column represents the percentage change from the prior year.

(2) Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure. Reconciliations to GAAP can be found on page 38 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, filed with the SEC on February 27, 2013.

In addition to these financial achievements, our stock price increased approximately 29% over the prior year, from \$60.01 on December 30, 2011 to \$77.27 on December 31, 2012.

We also outperformed on our strategic goals and business objectives during fiscal year 2012, which helped continue to align our short- and long-term business needs. Our strategic achievements included the following:

Expanded into new international markets through the acquisition of communications sites in Germany and Uganda;

Solidified a strong asset base domestically through targeted acquisitions of certain portfolios, construction and build-to-suits, as well as the addition of new tenants and new equipment for existing tenants through collocation;

Grew our portfolio to over 54,000 communications sites across our 11 served markets (United States, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Ghana, India, Mexico, Peru, South Africa and Uganda) as of December 31, 2012;

Strengthened our financial position by successfully completing key financing initiatives, maintaining sufficient liquidity, and pursuing long-term financings in select international markets; and

Secured a comprehensive master lease agreement with one of our major tenants.

As described below under Performance Bonus Awards, we significantly exceeded our performance goals for the year and each of our named executive officers overachieved on his individual goals for 2012. In addition, 2012 compensation determinations were influenced by our performance against external measures, including our peer group and various broad-based survey data.

**Compensation Philosophy**

We strongly adhere to a pay for performance philosophy, as we seek to reward our executive officers, both individually and collectively, for their leadership roles in meeting key near-term goals and objectives, while also positioning the Company to generate sustainable long-term value



for our stockholders. Our approach in determining executive compensation includes an overall assessment of the Company's performance relative to corporate level goals and objectives, individual performance relative to both corporate and executive goals and objectives, the Company's annual financial and share price performance relative to competitors and peer group companies, and other relevant considerations. We also adhere to a philosophy that seeks to retain those executives with a multi-year track record of outstanding performance at the Company and future leadership potential.

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Accordingly, we believe this multi-faceted approach, combined with the review of relevant benchmarking data and other independent analyses, allows us to determine the appropriate level of compensation to be awarded to each executive officer, as well as the allocation to be awarded in the form of base salary, performance bonus awards and long-term, equity-based incentive compensation.

We believe equity awards with time-based vesting provisions strike the right balance to our overall compensation structure since annual cash bonus awards are performance-driven based on achievement of Company and individual goals and objectives for the year. We do not provide extensive perquisites to our executive officers. Our executive officers are offered the same defined contribution retirement plan, health care, insurance and other welfare and employee-benefit programs that we offer to all of our eligible employees.

### ***Executive Compensation Program in 2012***

For 2012, the Committee awarded target total cash compensation for our current executive officers at the sixty-fifth percentile, on average, as compared to the companies included in the peer group and other broad-based survey data. Our targeted mix of compensation for our Chief Executive Officer and other four named executive officers was comprised of base salaries, performance bonus awards (at target), and long-term, equity-based compensation, as indicated in the charts below. The Committee believes the allocation, as depicted below, properly aligns with our compensation philosophy of appropriately balancing risk and motivating our executive officers to achieve Company performance objectives in the short-term and to grow the business to obtain value for our stockholders in the long-term.

### ***Other Key Features of our Executive Compensation Program***

Other key features of our executive compensation program include:

***Double Trigger Equity Vesting and No Tax Gross-Ups:*** Equity awards vest following a change in control and termination of employment ( double-trigger ), with no tax gross-ups provided in the event of a change in control of the Company;

***Reasonable Retirement and Welfare Benefits:*** Our executive benefits are generally consistent with all employees, with no supplemental pension or deferred compensation plans and limited perquisites provided to our executive officers;

***Clawback Provisions:*** The terms of our annual performance bonus awards and long-term, equity-based awards allow the Company to (in certain circumstances) claw back cash and shares received pursuant to such awards or, require the payment to the Company of all gains realized upon disposition of such shares;

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***Stock Ownership Guidelines:*** We require that our executive officers and Directors meet our stock ownership guidelines to closely align the interests of our leadership with those of our stockholders;

***Anti-Insider Trading Policy:*** Our policy imposes limits as to when and how Company employees, including our executive officers and Directors, can engage in transactions in our securities, and prohibits short sales of our Common Stock by Company personnel and Directors;

***Independent Compensation Consultant:*** The Committee engaged an independent compensation consultant that has no other ties to the Company or its management and that meets stringent selection criteria (see [Role of the Compensation Consultant](#) below); and

***Risk Assessment:*** The Committee conducts a risk review, with the independent compensation consultant and management, of the Company's compensation programs to determine if any elements of these programs create an inappropriate level of risk, and oversees management's methods to mitigate any potential risks.

### ***The Role of Stockholder Say-on-Pay Vote***

Approximately 98% of the votes cast at last year's Annual Meeting were voted in favor of the compensation paid to our named executive officers for 2011. The Committee considered the overall level of support for our compensation practices, and accordingly, used the existing compensation program as the model for developing the executive compensation program for 2012. Proposal 3 below provides our stockholders the opportunity to cast an advisory vote on our current executive compensation program. Although the stockholder vote is non-binding, the Committee will review the results of the vote and will take the results into account in making future determinations concerning executive compensation.

### ***Role of the Compensation Consultant***

In making its determinations with respect to executive compensation, the Committee historically has engaged the services of a compensation consultant. In 2012, the Committee retained the services of Pearl Meyer & Partners (PM&P) to assist with the review of overall compensation for our executive officers and Directors, as well as the review of our Proxy Statement disclosure regarding executive compensation. PM&P reports directly to the Committee, and the Committee can replace PM&P or hire additional consultants at any time. In fiscal year 2012, PM&P attended all Committee meetings in person or by telephone, including executive sessions as requested, and consulted frequently with the Chairperson of the Committee between meetings.

As part of its review, PM&P assisted the Committee with determining our peer group and benchmarking analyses, which included an executive compensation competitive analysis, a financial performance analysis, a dilution analysis and a realizable CEO pay for performance analysis. PM&P also advised the Committee on evolving best practices, assisted the Committee with the refinement of our retirement, death and disability provisions under our long-term incentive program, conducted a risk assessment review of each of our compensation practices, programs and policies, and provided a director compensation competitive analysis. Other than the services that it provides to the Committee, PM&P does not otherwise provide services to the Company and receives no additional compensation from the Company.

The Committee has analyzed whether the work of PM&P as its compensation consultant raises any conflict of interest, taking into consideration the following factors: (i) PM&P does not provide any other services to the Company; (ii) the amount of fees from the Company paid to PM&P is less than 1% of PM&P's total revenue; (iii) PM&P's policies and procedures were designed to ensure independence; (iv) PM&P does not have any business or personal relationship with an executive officer of the Company; (v) PM&P does not have any business or personal relationship with any member of the Committee; and (vi) neither PM&P, nor any member of its consulting team, owns any stock of the Company. The Committee has determined, based on its analysis of the above factors, that the work of PM&P and the individual compensation advisors employed by PM&P as compensation consultants to the Committee has not created any conflict of interest. The Committee will continue to monitor the independence of its compensation consultant on an annual basis.

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### **Compensation Determinations**

In making determinations with respect to all elements and amounts of executive compensation, the Committee considers evaluations of each executive officer's achievements relative to annual goals, objectives and performance metrics that were previously established by the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Committee. Performance reviews for each executive officer include the executive's contribution to the Company's financial performance, the executive's success in meeting individual performance targets, and an assessment of each executive's potential for continued contribution to the Company's long-term success. The Committee also assesses competitive market pay practices for each executive based on input from both internal and external sources, peer group and surveys, and other market data and trends.

### ***Evaluation and Performance Review Process***

Our executive compensation determinations are driven by a comprehensive evaluation and performance review process. To begin this process, the Chief Executive Officer works with the Committee to develop and finalize his, and the Company's goals, objectives and performance metrics for the coming year. As part of this process:

The Chief Executive Officer reviews with the Board and Committee how short-term annual performance targets support the long-term strategic direction of the Company.

The Chief Executive Officer works with each other executive officer to establish his or her individual goals and objectives, which are then reviewed and approved by the Committee.

Once approved, these goals and objectives form the basis for evaluating the performance of our senior vice presidents, vice presidents, directors and managers.

As a result, each individual's goals and objectives are closely aligned with the overall goals and objectives of our Chief Executive Officer and the Company. The overarching goals and objectives for the Company relate to key financial performance metrics, plus specific strategic, organizational and operational achievements.

Our review process is designed to measure each executive officer's performance against his or her goals for that year, and includes a mid-year and full-year evaluation:

For executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer, this review process is conducted by our Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Committee.

Input for each executive is compiled from internal sources familiar with the executive officer's performance and achievements, as well as external sources (such as customers and other business associates).

Following the mid-year review process, the Chief Executive Officer reports to the Committee on the progress achieved relative to each executive officer's goals and objectives.

As part of the year-end evaluation process, the Chief Executive Officer prepares written evaluations for each executive officer, which are then presented to the Committee for discussion.

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Based on these evaluations and performance reviews, the Chief Executive Officer recommends compensation packages for each executive officer, as well as the proposed framework for our equity compensation plan for the following year for senior vice presidents, vice presidents, directors and managers.

These evaluations and performance reviews are an essential part of the process by which the Committee determines executive compensation, and are a significant factor in the Committee's determinations with respect to performance bonuses.

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In the case of our Chief Executive Officer, he provides the Lead Director (who is a member of the Committee) with a report on his performance as compared to his established goals and objectives. The Lead Director then prepares a written evaluation of the Chief Executive Officer that includes extensive input from individuals familiar with his performance and achievements, including interviews with other Directors and the direct reports to the Chief Executive Officer. The written evaluation is then presented to the Committee for review and discussion.

After reviewing the executive officers' performance against goals and objectives for the year and considering the other factors discussed above, and after consultation with the Board of Directors, the Committee typically makes its final determinations with respect to compensation in February or March. Performance bonus awards, if any, are generally paid out to our executive officers and other eligible employees in February or March of each year. In addition, if the Committee determines to grant equity-based awards pursuant to our annual employee grant, any such grants, including grants to executive officers, will generally take place in March of each year.

### ***Peer Group Review***

The Committee and management team, with the assistance of PM&P, review the peer group on an annual basis. Due to the unique nature of the Company's business, the Committee continually faces challenges as it strives to develop the most appropriate mix of companies to comprise our peer group. The challenges include, but are not limited to, the following:

There are very few companies in the wireless communications business, which forces us to look more broadly across the technology industry to find potential comparators.

Our increasing global business operations in very unique international markets differs from our peers.

We manage our business with a relatively small senior management team, which differs from other technology firms.

We historically outperform our peers in the technology industry and the S&P 500.

On January 1, 2012, we converted to a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) for federal income tax purposes, which changed our Global Industry Classification System (GICS) code from a wireless telecommunications services company to a specialized REIT.

However, while we operate as a REIT, we are simultaneously managing a growing technology-based business on a global basis. Ultimately, the Committee considered each of the above challenges as well as the following selection criteria to redesign the 2012 peer group:

We focused on S&P 500 companies within the technology and REIT industries with similar products and services.

We used a range of revenue from 0.25x to 4x that of our revenue to develop a pool of potential firms to consider.

We then narrowed the pool of potential companies based on market capitalization and enterprise value.

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The Committee and PM&P believe this current peer group represents a reasonable mix of companies to appropriately address the concerns presented above and the growing scale and international focus of the Company. For 2012, the peer group included the following companies:

Company	Industry	Revenue <sup>1</sup>	Market Capitalization <sup>2</sup> (\$ in millions)	Enterprise Value <sup>2</sup>
Amphenol Corporation	Electronic Equipment, Instruments & Components	\$ 4,024	\$ 8,842	\$ 10,303
Boston Properties, Inc.	REIT	\$ 1,932	\$ 16,333	\$ 23,796
Corning Incorporated	Electronic Equipment, Instruments & Components	\$ 7,790	\$ 19,266	\$ 13,903
Crown Castle International Corp.	Wireless Telecommunications Services	\$ 2,171	\$ 17,190	\$ 26,146
Equity Residential	REIT	\$ 2,098	\$ 18,768	\$ 28,594
F5 Networks, Inc.	Communications Equipment	\$ 1,329	\$ 7,867	\$ 6,859
HCP, Inc.	REIT	\$ 1,889	\$ 18,958	\$ 27,707
Health Care REIT, Inc.	REIT	\$ 1,678	\$ 12,516	\$ 21,777
Juniper Networks, Inc.	Communications Equipment	\$ 4,333	\$ 8,581	\$ 6,843
MasterCard Incorporated	IT Services	\$ 7,124	\$ 53,719	\$ 47,730
Motorola Solutions, Inc.	Communications Equipment	\$ 8,443	\$ 13,774	\$ 12,000
ProLogis, Inc.	REIT	\$ 2,041	\$ 15,307	\$ 27,437
Public Storage	REIT	\$ 1,848	\$ 24,628	\$ 28,962
Rockwell Collins, Inc.	Aerospace & Defense	\$ 4,761	\$ 7,013	\$ 7,903
Simon Property Group, Inc.	REIT	\$ 4,661	\$ 47,216	\$ 70,555
Ventas, Inc.	REIT	\$ 2,311	\$ 18,644	\$ 26,901
Visa Inc.	IT Services	\$ 10,073	\$ 84,635	\$ 60,604
Vornado Realty Trust	REIT	\$ 3,014	\$ 15,605	\$ 26,157
Yahoo! Inc.	Internet Software & Services	\$ 4,980	\$ 18,903	\$ 15,800
<b>Peer Group Median</b>		<b>\$ 3,014</b>	<b>\$ 17,190</b>	<b>\$ 26,146</b>
<b>American Tower Corporation</b>	<b>REITs</b>	<b>\$ 2,678</b>	<b>\$ 27,617</b>	<b>\$ 35,448</b>

(1) Data from S&P's Research Insight database, as of most recent quarter end at the time the analysis was completed (June 2012).

(2) Data from S&P's Research Insight database, as of most recent month end at the time the analysis was completed (July 2012).

**Benchmarking Analyses**

The Committee directs its compensation consultant to conduct an annual assessment of executive compensation using our peer group and various broad-based survey sources. The analysis includes a review of total target compensation for each executive officer as well as for each component of compensation, relative to executives in comparable positions or with comparable roles. In assessing the appropriateness of its determinations, the Committee considers that the roles our named executive officers play in our organization may not match exactly with executives in comparable positions included in the benchmarking analyses. In conducting this review, PM&P prepared an executive compensation competitive analysis, a peer group financial performance analysis and a peer group dilution analysis.

The Committee's overall philosophy is initially to target total compensation for our executive officers at the median, and increase target compensation as our executive officers demonstrate their performance over time. While the Committee generally uses this approach when determining compensation packages for newly promoted or hired executives, market conditions, experience levels, special capabilities and location of employment can significantly impact the type of compensation package necessary to recruit and retain senior executives. In considering total target compensation for our current executive officers, the Committee takes into account the relatively small size of our management team and the substantial scope of their roles relative to

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achieving Company short- and long-term business strategies, as well as their continued demonstration of superior performance relative to Company performance. We expect above-average performance from our executive officers, and assuming the Committee determines they continue to perform at high levels based on mid- and full-year evaluations, the Committee believes that their compensation should be set accordingly.

**Elements of Compensation**

To achieve our compensation objectives, we believe that total executive compensation should be balanced among the following components:

annual base salary;

performance bonus awards; and

long-term, equity-based incentive compensation.

**Annual Base Salary**

Annual base salary provides a competitive level of fixed compensation to attract and retain the best possible executive talent. In determining base salaries for our named executive officers, the Committee considers the responsibilities of each position and the skills and experience required for each job, taking into account the base salaries for similar positions at peer companies, as well as the other factors outlined above under the caption Compensation Determinations. The Committee also weighs heavily the fact that we have a small senior management team relative to the size of the Company and compared to other companies of similar size. As a result, the annual base salaries for our named executive officers can vary significantly from those of named executive officers in comparable positions at other companies. We believe a small senior management team allows us to leverage the broader capabilities of the executive officers more effectively and fosters a team approach by, and greater collaboration among, our executive officers. Given this team orientation, we generally try to limit the relative difference in base salaries among our executive officers.

The following table sets forth the base salaries of our named executive officers for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Name	2010 Base Salary	2011 Base Salary	Percent Change (1)	2012 Base Salary	Percent Change (1)
James D. Taiclet, Jr.	\$ 900,000	\$ 1,100,000	22%	\$ 1,100,000	0%
Thomas A. Bartlett	\$ 650,000	\$ 682,500	5%	\$ 702,975	3%
William H. Hess	\$ 500,000	\$ 550,000	10%	\$ 566,500	3%
Steven C. Marshall	\$ 450,000	\$ 508,500	13%	\$ 564,435	11%
Edmund DiSanto	\$ 400,000	\$ 420,000	5%	\$ 500,220	19%

(1) This column represents the percentage change in base salary from the prior year.

After reviewing merit increases and individual performance during the prior year, relative to Company performance during the prior year, and determining whether there were significant changes in the scope and complexity of each executive's job responsibilities during the year, combined with a review of peer group competitive assessment data, the Committee determined it necessary to increase base salaries for each of Messrs. Marshall and DiSanto, respectively, for 2012. Taking into account the percent change in base salaries in 2011, the Committee determined to keep Mr. Taiclet's 2012 base salary the same as the prior year, and provide a market increase of 3% for the 2012 base salaries of Messrs. Bartlett and Hess. Based on the peer group and benchmarking analyses performed by PM&P, the 2012 base salaries for Messrs. Bartlett, Hess, Marshall and Taiclet were above the seventy-fifth percentile and the annual base salary for Mr. DiSanto was at the seventy-fifth percentile.



**Table of Contents*****Performance Bonus Awards***

Annual cash bonus awards provide at-risk variable pay for short-term performance, motivating our executives by rewarding them for individual performance and for contributions to Company performance. In determining performance bonus awards for our executive officers, the Committee considers the achievements of each executive officer relative to his or her individual goals and objectives for the year, as well as the Company's achievement of its goals and objectives for the year. For 2012, 50% of the performance bonus award was tied to the achievement of Company financial targets and 50% of the performance bonus award was tied to the achievement of individual strategic goals, including certain budget metrics.

Generally, if we meet our performance goals for the year, and the executive officer meets his or her performance goals for the year, the executive officer would be eligible to receive a performance bonus equal to his or her bonus target.

The Committee reviews the achievement of each goal and objective established by the executive officer in the beginning of the year by reviewing inputs and data that are provided directly to the Committee. If the inputs and data demonstrate that the executive significantly overachieved his or her goals and objectives for the year, the Committee may increase the annual performance bonus payout. However, the annual cash bonus cannot exceed 200% of the executive's bonus target. The annual performance bonus could be decreased, or eliminated entirely, by the Committee for underperformance.

Company goals and objectives that are shared among the executive officers relate to financial performance. For purposes of the annual performance bonus for 2012, we established Company performance goals related to rental and management revenue and Adjusted EBITDA. These goals are used to measure management's ability to grow our business, increase cash generation and control costs and were also the Company goals on which bonuses for 2011 were based. We base bonuses for all of our executive officers on these goals, as we believe that making Company financial performance a shared objective for our executive officers will encourage alignment and teamwork among them. We also believe that these measures of financial performance are among the most important for our stockholders, which aligns our executive officers with our stockholder base.

For 2012, the Committee measured Company financial performance based on the achievement of the following goals as of December 31, 2012 (in millions):

	<b>Goal (1)</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
Rental and management revenue	\$ 2,704	\$ 2,803	Exceeded
Adjusted EBITDA (2)	\$ 1,763	\$ 1,892	Exceeded

(1) Adjusted for the impact of fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and material acquisitions.

(2) We define Adjusted EBITDA as net income before: income (loss) on discontinued operations, net; income (loss) from equity method investments; income tax provision (benefit); other income (expense); loss on retirement of long-term obligations; interest expense; interest income; other operating expenses; depreciation, amortization and accretion; and stock-based compensation expense.

When we set Company goals for rental and management revenue and Adjusted EBITDA, we typically set them at or near the mid-point of the full year outlook that we provide to our stockholders. On February 23, 2012, we issued a press release reporting our fourth quarter and full year results for 2011 that included our 2012 full-year outlook for rental and management revenue and Adjusted EBITDA. In this press release, which we furnished to the SEC on Form 8-K, we indicated anticipated rental and management revenue for 2012 of between \$2,670 million and \$2,710 million, and anticipated Adjusted EBITDA for 2012 of between \$1,745 million and \$1,785 million. The ranges for anticipated rental and management revenue and Adjusted EBITDA were revised in subsequent earnings releases to adjust for fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and material acquisitions. On February 26, 2013, we issued a press release, which we furnished to the SEC on Form 8-K,

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reporting our actual results of operations for 2012 that included rental and management revenue of \$2,803 million and Adjusted EBITDA of \$1,892 million. As set forth in the table above, based on our 2012 financial results, we determined that the Company exceeded each of its goals for the year ended December 31, 2012.

In evaluating Company performance, the Committee also took into account our performance against the S&P 500 during 2012. Our stock price increased approximately 29% over the prior year, from \$60.01 on December 30, 2011 to \$77.27 on December 31, 2012. In contrast, the S&P 500 increased by only 13% during the same period. Further, the Committee also reviewed our performance over the last three years, as compared against the S&P 500, noting that, while our stock price increased approximately 79%, the S&P 500 increased approximately 28% during the same period. In addition, the Committee considered the peer group and benchmarking analyses related to Company performance, including the determination that we ranked first among the peer group companies in performance on a three-year basis and fourth in performance on a one-year basis, based on overall average performance in terms of revenue growth, EBITDA as a percentage of revenue and total shareholder return.

In determining individual performance, the Committee relies primarily on the evaluations and performance reviews for each executive officer as outlined in *Evaluation and Performance Review Process* discussed above.

The Committee determined that each of our named executive officers exceeded his individual goals for 2012. Consequently, the actual bonus amounts received by Messrs. Taiclet, Bartlett, Hess, Marshall and DiSanto are based on overachievement of both individual and Company goals, and reflect awards of 185%, 112%, 119%, 123% and 113% of base salary, respectively. Among other things, the Committee considered the substantial achievements of the following 2012 goals of our named executive officers, which included the achievement of Company goals when considering individual performance:

For Mr. Taiclet, elevating the effectiveness of the executive team through improved management depth in regions and key functions, succession planning enhancements and improved collaboration among the executive officers; exceeding certain financial targets; and increasing the asset base by approximately 20% through approximately 6,500 acquired sites and 2,300 build-to-suits.

For Mr. Bartlett, delivering strong financial results and carefully managing the Company's balance sheet; successfully upgrading the Company's information technology systems; elevating the global effectiveness of the internal audit group; establishing quality and effective REIT compliance monitoring processes; and strengthening the Company's financial position through (i) the successful completion of key opportunistic financing initiatives, including a new \$1 billion new credit facility, a \$750 million term loan, and a \$700 million senior notes offering at 4.70%, (ii) maintaining sufficient liquidity, (iii) pursuing long-term financings in select international markets, and (iv) maintaining the Company's financial leverage in the three to five times range.

For Mr. Hess, delivering continued growth in revenue and operating profits in the Latin American and EMEA markets; elevating the effectiveness of the senior management team and organizational structure through securing high quality senior leadership and collaboration initiatives; securing strategic relationships with leading global operators; and further strengthening the Company's international position through the acquisition or construction of approximately 3,000 sites in the Latin America region and over 3,300 sites in the EMEA region, including in two new countries, Germany and Uganda.

For Mr. Marshall, delivering continued growth in revenue and operating profits for the U.S. operations through organic commencement of new business and amendments to existing contracts as wireless carriers continued to deploy next generation technologies; securing a comprehensive master lease agreement with one of the Company's major tenants; maintaining a strong safety record; continuing to pursue strategic discretionary land purchases; and driving improvements in lease processing and field operations.

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For Mr. DiSanto, successfully negotiating agreements to expand the Company's portfolio domestically and internationally through several large acquisitions; developing effective investment committee processes to assess new acquisition opportunities; successfully concluding certain litigation and regulatory proceedings during the year; developing key customer partnership agreements in each region; reorganizing the human resources function and employee benefits on a global basis; and implementing ethics and FCPA compliance training programs in each new market.

The following table sets forth the target award opportunities and actual bonuses awarded to our named executive officers for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Name	Year	Target Cash Bonus Potential		Actual Cash Bonus		Percent Change (1)
		% of Base Salary	\$	% of Base Salary	\$	
James D. Taiclet, Jr.	2010	75%	\$ 675,000	131%	\$ 1,181,250	24%
	2011	100%	\$ 1,100,000	165%	\$ 1,815,000	54%
	2012	100%	\$ 1,100,000	185%	\$ 2,035,000	12%
Thomas A. Bartlett	2010	60%	\$ 390,000	87%	\$ 565,500	19%
	2011	70%	\$ 477,750	89%	\$ 606,743	7%
	2012	70%	\$ 492,083	112%	\$ 787,332	30%
William H. Hess	2010	60%	\$ 300,000	86%	\$ 432,000	35%
	2011	70%	\$ 385,000	106%	\$ 585,200	35%
	2012	70%	\$ 396,550	119%	\$ 674,135	15%
Steven C. Marshall	2010	60%	\$ 270,000	88%	\$ 396,900	17%
	2011	70%	\$ 355,950	88%	\$ 444,938	12%
	2012	70%	\$ 395,105	123%	\$ 691,433	55%
Edmund DiSanto	2010	60%	\$ 240,000	87%	\$ 348,000	29%
	2011	70%	\$ 294,000	97%	\$ 405,720	17%
	2012	70%	\$ 350,154	113%	\$ 567,249	40%

(1) This column represents the percentage change in actual cash bonus awarded from the prior year.

Based on the latest available peer group and benchmarking analyses, the bonus amounts for Messrs. Taiclet, Bartlett, Hess and Marshall were above the sixty-fifth percentile, and the bonus amount for Mr. DiSanto was above the fortieth percentile.

The annual bonus plan provides that annual performance bonus awards are subject to forfeiture and recovery by the Company under certain circumstances, such as the named executive officer's termination by the Company for cause or, following termination of employment for any reason, either (1) the Company determines that the executive officer engaged in conduct while an employee that would have justified termination for cause, or (2) the executive officer violates any applicable confidentiality or noncompetition agreement with the Company or any affiliate.

**Long-Term Incentive Compensation**

Granting equity-based incentive awards to our executives provides an at-risk variable pay opportunity for long-term performance, and focuses our executive officers on the creation of long-term stockholder value. In determining the amount of each equity-based incentive award, the Committee considers similar awards to individuals with comparable positions or roles at the companies included in the peer group and benchmarking analyses, overall Company performance, individual performance relative to annual goals and objectives and anticipated level of future contribution by the executive officer.

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We believe our executive officers create the largest impact on the Company by focusing on long-term goals. Accordingly, we historically have weighted our total executive compensation package towards equity-based incentive awards that vest ratably over a four-year period. This creates an incentive for our executive officers to focus on long-term results and annual vesting provides an appropriate intermediate value as results are attained. In addition, we believe equity awards with time-based vesting provisions strike an appropriate balance to our overall compensation structure since annual cash bonus awards are performance-driven based on achievement of annual Company and individual goals and objectives.

We also believe that four-year vesting contributes to employee retention, as vesting is contingent upon continued service with the Company. Given that we typically enter into long-term leases with our tenants, we generate relatively predictable revenues. While our management team can drive additional business, cost reduction efforts, process improvements and other short-term advancements, we believe that focusing our executive officers on long-term achievements will create the greatest stockholder value. Management decisions with respect to mergers and acquisitions, long-term contracts with major tenants, financial leverage, capital structure, growth opportunities, expansion into new markets and strategic alliances will have the largest impact on the Company. Decisions on these types of matters may have a negative short-term impact on our performance and/or stock price, but may result in long-term value. It is our belief that granting our executive officers meaningful levels of equity-based awards will provide them a greater incentive to focus on long-term results, and will enable us to retain highly experienced executives to sustain long-term Company performance. Therefore, to ensure a strong link between pay and long-term performance, target values of our equity-based awards have tended to approximate or be above the seventy-fifth percentile, as compared to the companies included in the peer group and benchmarking analyses performed by PM&P.

In February 2012, in connection with annual performance reviews and the Company's annual employee equity grant, the Committee approved grants of stock options and RSUs to each of our named executive officers based on their performance in the prior year and expected future contributions to the Company. The following table sets forth the equity values granted to our named executive officers in the years ended December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012. For each named executive officer, 50% of each of the equity values was stock options and 50% of each of the equity values was RSUs.

Name	2010	2011	Percent Change (1)	2012	Percent Change (1)
James D. Taiclet, Jr.	\$ 4,100,015	\$ 6,000,048	46%	\$ 8,000,071	33%
Thomas A. Bartlett	\$ 2,000,028	\$ 2,200,049	10%	\$ 2,700,056	23%
William H. Hess	\$ 1,800,007	\$ 2,100,035	17%	\$ 2,500,047	19%
Steven C. Marshall	\$ 1,800,007	\$ 2,100,035	17%	\$ 2,500,047	19%
Edmund DiSanto	\$ 1,800,007	\$ 2,000,022	11%	\$ 2,400,012	20%

(1) This column represents the percentage change in equity values awarded from the prior year.

As set forth in the table above, for 2012, we changed the size of our equity-based awards to each of our named executive officers. The value of annual equity-based award grants in 2012 for our executive officers increased between 19% and 33%. In determining the size of these awards for 2012, the Committee first considered the total value/spend on equity for 2011, which was used as the foundation for determining the 2012 equity budget. The Committee then reviewed and approved a range of award valuations for each employee level. For our named executive officers, the Committee determined the appropriate allocations to each executive officer based on the most recent available peer group competitive assessment data, the current pay position, performance, goal achievement, changes in job responsibilities and historical data of awards made to executives in prior years. The Committee determined to increase the size of the equity-based awards for each executive officer in recognition of the increased scale and complexity of the Company, the increased acquisition and growth opportunities completed during the year and the financial performance of the Company.

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Our practice has been to award equity-based incentives to our executive officers in amounts that vary based on the executive's scope of responsibility and the expected contributions of the executive officer and the executive officer's operating unit to the Company.

In comparing our equity-based awards to those granted by other companies included in the peer group and benchmarking analyses, we determined the value of our awards using a Black-Scholes valuation analysis for stock options and the closing price of our Common Stock on the date of grant for RSUs. Based on the peer group and benchmarking analyses, the fair market value of equity-based awards granted in 2012 for each of the named executive officers was above the seventy-fifth percentile.

Each option grant vests 25% annually over four years, commencing one year from the date of grant, and has a term of ten years. Each RSU grant vests 25% annually over four years, commencing one year from the date of grant. All stock options and RSUs awarded as part of our annual employee grant in 2012, including the above awards to our executive officers, were granted on March 12, 2012. The stock options granted as part of the annual 2012 employee grant have an exercise price of \$62.00, which was the closing price of our Common Stock on the NYSE on the date of grant.

In addition to our practice of granting equity-based awards in connection with our annual performance reviews, we periodically grant equity-based awards to our employees, including our executive officers, related to specific achievements or accomplishments. During 2012, we did not grant equity-based awards to our executive officers for specific achievements or accomplishments outside of the annual performance reviews and annual employee equity grant.

### ***Perquisites***

We do not believe in providing extensive perquisites to our executive officers. Our healthcare, insurance and other welfare and retirement programs are the same for all eligible employees, including executive officers, and include health and dental coverage, group term life insurance, disability programs, our broad-based employee stock purchase program (under which we give a 15% discount to all employees on the purchase price of our stock) and matching contributions to our 401(k) plan (or U.K. designated retirement fund for Mr. Marshall). We share the cost of health and welfare benefits with our employees, including our executive officers, a cost that depends on the level of benefits coverage that each employee or executive officer elects. We have no deferred compensation plans or supplemental executive retirement plans, nor any outstanding loans of any kind to our executive officers.

As set forth in the Summary Compensation Table, in the column captioned "All Other Compensation," perquisites to executive officers include an annual car allowance of \$12,000 and reimbursement for related auto insurance premiums. They also include amounts for discounted parking at our corporate offices in Boston, a benefit we provide to a number of our corporate employees, including our named executive officers.

Under limited circumstances, we provide certain perquisites to recruit individuals to key positions within the Company and to officers that expatriate to another country for work on the Company's behalf. Accordingly, in addition to the general perquisites to executive officers, Mr. Marshall, an expatriate from the United Kingdom, receives a goods and services differential, benefits allowances, optional relocation support allowances and housing in connection with his continued role as Executive Vice President and President, U.S. Tower Division. The amount for each of these perquisites is set forth in the Summary Compensation Table. This is consistent with standard packages offered to expatriated employees at global companies.

**Table of Contents****Compensation Determinations for 2013**

In February 2013, the Committee established base salaries and target bonus award opportunities for our named executive officers for 2013. The following table sets forth the base salary and target bonus award opportunities for Messrs. Taiclet, Bartlett, Hess, Marshall and DiSanto for the year ending December 31, 2013.

Name	2012 Base Salary	2013 Base Salary	Percent Change (1)	2013 Target Cash Bonus Potential (% of Base Salary / \$)
James D. Taiclet, Jr.	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,100,000	0%	100% / \$1,100,000
Thomas A. Bartlett	\$ 702,975	\$ 730,000	4%	70% / \$511,000
William H. Hess	\$ 566,500	\$ 600,000	6%	70% / \$420,000
Steven C. Marshall	\$ 564,435	\$ 600,000	6%	70% / \$420,000
Edmund DiSanto	\$ 500,220	\$ 530,000	6%	70% / \$371,000

(1) This column represents the percentage change in base salary from the prior year.

In February 2013, the Committee also approved the grant of equity-based incentive awards pursuant to our annual employee grant, which included awards to the executive officers comprised of stock options and RSUs that vest over time. In determining the size of these awards, the Committee established a targeted award value for each executive officer and then allocated 50% to each of RSUs and stock options, consistent with prior years. In making its determinations, the Committee reviewed the total value of prior year awards, as well as the peer group and benchmarking analyses related to equity-based awards, and then established a value for the 2013 equity-based awards to each executive officer. The 2013 equity award values for each executive officer are above the seventy-fifth percentile based on the 2012 peer group and benchmarking analyses. The Committee determined that the award values were appropriate given the Company and individual executive officers' continued superior performance, expected future contributions and the comparably smaller size of the executive team relative to other similarly-sized companies.

The following table sets forth the equity value of stock options and RSUs approved by the Committee to Messrs. Taiclet, Bartlett, Hess, Marshall and DiSanto as part of our 2012 and 2013 annual employee grants.

Name	2012 Equity Value (1)	2013 Equity Value (1)	Percent Change (2)
James D. Taiclet, Jr.	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 9,000,000	13%
Thomas A. Bartlett	\$ 2,700,000	\$ 3,000,000	11%
William H. Hess	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,800,000	12%
Steven C. Marshall	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,800,000	12%
Edmund DiSanto	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 2,700,000	13%

(1) Due to fractional shares, the fair value of amounts awarded may slightly differ from the amounts approved by the Committee.

(2) This column represents the percentage change in equity values awarded from the prior year.

The Committee adopted a death, disability and retirement benefits program in connection with equity awards granted to executives and the broader employee population similar to our peer group companies. The benefits provide for the amendment of stock options and RSUs granted on or after January 1, 2013, to accelerate the vesting and exercise periods upon an employee's death or permanent disability, or upon an employee's qualified retirement provided certain eligibility criteria are met.

**Employment and Other Agreements**

To recruit and retain our executive officers, we have periodically entered into employment letters and other arrangements or agreements, all of which are subject to review by the Committee.



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In March 2013, we entered into a two-year letter agreement with Mr. Marshall in connection with his continuation as Executive Vice President and President of our U.S. Tower Division. In addition to terms consistent with our agreements with our other executive officers, we agreed to provide Mr. Marshall with a goods and services differential, benefits allowances, optional relocation support allowances and housing.

Pursuant to each of the letter agreements with Messrs. Bartlett and Marshall, each will be entitled to severance benefits under the Severance Program as it relates to Company Executive Vice Presidents, as discussed below. In addition to the benefits under the Severance Program, in the event Mr. Bartlett's employment is terminated by the Company (other than for Cause or for Performance Reasons as defined in the Severance Program), he will be entitled to immediate vesting in full of his April 1, 2009 equity awards, which will be exercisable for a period of 90 days. These severance benefits are contingent upon Mr. Bartlett signing a separation and release agreement in acceptable form, which would include customary confidentiality, non-solicitation and non-competition provisions.

In March 2009, we entered into waiver and termination agreements with each of Messrs. Taiclet, Hess and DiSanto, pursuant to which they agreed to waive the severance benefits under their then existing employment letters and to terminate their letters. These waiver and termination agreements were entered into in connection with the implementation of our new broad-based severance program. In March 2009, we implemented the Severance Program to provide severance benefits to all eligible employees if they are terminated in certain circumstances. The Severance Program establishes varying amounts of severance benefits depending on an employee's position or tenure with the Company. By terminating their existing employment letters, each of Messrs. Taiclet, Hess and DiSanto became subject to the terms of the Severance Program. Under the Severance Program, the severance benefits now afforded to our Executive Vice Presidents and our Chief Executive Officer are as follows:

**Cash Severance:** Upon a Qualifying Termination (i.e., termination by the executive officer for Good Reason or a termination of the executive officer by the Company other than for Cause or for Performance Reasons (as such terms are defined in the Severance Program)), the Chief Executive Officer will be entitled to receive 104 weeks of base earnings and each Executive Vice President will be entitled to receive 78 weeks of base earnings. In addition, each executive officer will be entitled to a pro-rated portion of his or her target bonus for the portion of the year prior to termination, assuming 100% satisfaction of goals or objectives related thereto.

**Equity Acceleration/Vesting Provisions:** Upon a Qualifying Termination that occurs within 14 days prior to, or up to two years following, a Change of Control, each executive officer would also be entitled to full acceleration of vesting of all outstanding equity-based awards, including, but not limited to, stock options and RSUs.

**Benefits Continuation:** Following a Qualifying Termination, each executive officer will be eligible for continued health and welfare benefits, pursuant to which the Company will pay the employer share of the cost of coverage for a period equal to the number of weeks of base earnings payable under the Severance Program.

**Release of Claims, Non-Compete:** All severance benefits under the Severance Program are subject to the executive officer signing a separation and release agreement and a confidentiality and restrictive covenants agreement in forms satisfactory to the Company. In addition, at the Company's discretion, the Company can require the deposit of a portion of the after-tax payments to each executive officer in a restricted account to serve as security for the executive officer's compliance with the ongoing covenants, restrictions and obligations contained in such agreements, with restrictions on distribution up to and including forfeiture in the event of non-compliance.

We are also a party to noncompetition agreements with Mr. Hess. We entered into a Noncompetition and Confidentiality agreement with Mr. Hess in January 2004, amended in August 2008, in connection with the grant



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to Mr. Hess of options to purchase shares of the Company's Brazil subsidiary, ATC South America Holding LLC (ATC South America). In addition, in 2001, we entered into a similar noncompetition agreement with Mr. Hess related to the Company's Mexico subsidiary, ATC MexHold LLC (ATC Mexico).

### **Equity-Based Award Procedures**

In February 2008, the Committee approved a number of written procedures regarding the grant of equity-based incentive awards and award modifications under the 2007 Equity Incentive Plan, which include the following:

our annual broad-based employee grant, if approved, will be on March 10 of each year (or, if not a business day, the first business day following March 10), unless we have not yet filed our Annual Report on Form 10-K for such year, in which case the grant will be delayed until the first business day following the filing date of our Form 10-K with the SEC.

all new hire and promotional grants must be approved by the Committee, with the grant dates for such awards established as of (i) the first business day of the calendar month following Committee action approving such grants, or (ii) such future date as approved by the Committee.

unless otherwise expressly approved by the Committee, the grant price for all equity-based awards will be equal to the closing price of our Common Stock on the NYSE on the date of grant.

at or prior to the time the Committee meets or takes action by unanimous written consent to approve an equity-based award, the Committee shall receive a complete schedule setting forth all details of the proposed awards, and the date of grant for such awards will be the first business day of the calendar month following Committee action approving such grants or a future date specified by the Committee in such approval.

any material change to the terms of an equity-based award following Committee approval must be submitted for approval by the Committee, and any modification to any material term of an award shall be effective as of the date of approval by Committee, or a future date specified by the Committee in such approval.

### **Stock Ownership Guidelines**

We believe that, by holding shares of our Common Stock, RSUs and options to purchase our Common Stock, our executive officers have interests that are more closely aligned with those of our stockholders. In January 2012, we implemented a formal stock ownership policy for our executive officers and Directors so that they may also share in the perspectives and sentiments of our stockholders as our stock price increases or decreases.

The current stock ownership guidelines are based on a multiple of base salary for executive officers (five times base salary for the Chief Executive Officer and three times base salary for the executive officers directly reporting to the Chief Executive Officer) and a multiple of the annual cash retainer for non-employee Directors (five times annual retainer). Shares to be counted for determining compliance with these guidelines include (i) actual shares held, (ii) unvested time-based RSUs, and (iii) in-the-money vested options. Executives and Directors have five years from the date of hire or implementation of these guidelines to be in compliance.

As of December 31, 2012, all of our executive officers were in compliance with the stock ownership guidelines. For additional information on our stock ownership guidelines, see above under the caption "Corporate Governance - Stock Ownership Guidelines."

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### **Anti-Insider Trading Policy**

We have an Anti-Insider Trading Policy that imposes limits as to when and how Company employees, including our executive officers and Directors, can engage in transactions in our securities, and prohibits short sales of our Common Stock by Company personnel and Directors. While we do not have a formal policy that restricts our executive officers and Directors from entering into hedging transactions with respect to our Common Stock, any such transactions would be subject to the provisions of our Anti-Insider Trading Policy. Additionally, none of our executive officers or Directors has pledged shares of his or her Common Stock as security.

### **Clawback**

The terms of our annual performance bonus and long-term, equity-based awards allow the Company to (in certain circumstances) claw back cash and shares received pursuant to such awards, respectively, or, in the latter case, require the payment to the Company of all gains realized upon disposition of such shares, upon a violation of a specific policy, inappropriate conduct, or exposure of the Company to unreasonable risks.

### **Tax and Accounting Implications**

#### ***Deductibility of Executive Compensation***

As part of its role, the Committee reviews and considers the deductibility of executive compensation under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), which generally disallows a tax deduction to public companies for certain compensation in excess of \$1 million paid in any year to a company's chief executive officer and the three other most highly compensated officers (other than the company's chief financial officer). Certain compensation, including qualified performance based compensation, will not be subject to the deduction limitation if certain requirements are met. While the Committee is mindful of whether compensation will be deductible under Section 162(m), in order to meet the objectives of our compensation philosophy, it retains the flexibility in both the design of our compensation programs and in making awards to our executive officers to provide for compensation that will not qualify as performance based compensation. For purposes of Section 162(m), amounts paid to Messrs. Taiclet, Hess, Marshall and DiSanto exceeded \$1 million in 2012.

#### ***Accounting for Equity-Based Compensation***

As discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, we measure and recognize compensation expense for all share-based payment awards made to employees and Directors, including stock options, RSUs and employee stock purchases under our employee stock purchase plan. Stock-based compensation cost is measured at the accounting measurement date based on the fair value of the award and is recognized as an expense over the requisite service period, which generally represents the vesting period, and for those awards granted in 2013, is the shorter of the vesting period or the period within which the employee will become eligible to receive such awards under our death, disability and retirement benefits program. The expense recognized over the service period is required to include an estimate of the awards that will be forfeited. We calculate the fair value of stock options using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model that takes into account a number of assumptions at the accounting measurement date, including the stock price, the exercise price, the expected life of the option, the volatility of the underlying stock, expected dividends and the risk-free interest rate over the expected life of the option. The fair value of RSUs is based on the market price of our Common Stock on the grant date. We continue to believe that our broad-based equity incentive program is an effective tool for motivating and retaining our employees and expect to continue to grant options and RSUs to our employees and executive officers, notwithstanding the impact to our financial statements.

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**Compensation Committee Report**

The Compensation Committee of the Company's Board of Directors reviewed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis for the year ended December 31, 2012 and discussed this Compensation Discussion and Analysis with the Company's management. Based on this review and its discussions with management, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Company's Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement for the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

By the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of American Tower Corporation.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Samme L. Thompson, Chairperson

Gustavo Lara Cantu

Pamela D.A. Reeve

**Table of Contents****Executive Compensation**

The following table provides information concerning compensation earned by each of our named executive officers for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010.

**Summary Compensation Table**

Name and Principal Position (a)	Year (b)	Salary (\$) (c)	Bonus (\$) (1) (d)	Stock Awards (\$) (2) (e)	Option Awards (\$) (3) (f)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) (4) (g)	All Other Compensation (\$) (5) (i)	Total (\$) (j)
James D. Taiclet, Jr. <i>Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer</i>	2012	\$ 1,100,000		\$ 4,000,054	\$ 4,000,017	\$ 2,035,000	\$ 26,093	\$ 11,161,164
	2011	\$ 1,100,000		\$ 3,000,032	\$ 3,000,016	\$ 1,815,000	\$ 26,932	\$ 8,941,980
	2010	\$ 900,000		\$ 2,050,010	\$ 2,050,005	\$ 1,181,250	\$ 24,861	\$ 6,206,126
Thomas A. Bartlett <i>Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer</i>	2012	\$ 702,975		\$ 1,350,050	\$ 1,350,006	\$ 787,332	\$ 20,550	\$ 4,210,913
	2011	\$ 682,500	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,100,047	\$ 1,100,002	\$ 606,743	\$ 20,944	\$ 3,710,236
	2010	\$ 650,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,000,023	\$ 1,000,005	\$ 565,500	\$ 20,131	\$ 3,435,659
William H. Hess <i>Executive Vice President, International Operations and President, Latin America and EMEA</i>	2012	\$ 566,500		\$ 1,250,044	\$ 1,250,003	\$ 674,135	\$ 25,836	\$ 3,766,518
	2011	\$ 550,000		\$ 1,050,029	\$ 1,050,006	\$ 585,200	\$ 26,570	\$ 3,261,805
	2010	\$ 500,000		\$ 900,007	\$ 900,000	\$ 432,000	\$ 24,617	\$ 2,756,624
Steven C. Marshall <i>Executive Vice President and President, U.S. Tower Division</i>	2012	\$ 564,435		\$ 1,250,044	\$ 1,250,003	\$ 691,433	\$ 161,314	\$ 3,917,229
	2011	\$ 508,500		\$ 1,050,029	\$ 1,050,006	\$ 444,938	\$ 166,106	\$ 3,219,579
	2010	\$ 450,000		\$ 900,007	\$ 900,000	\$ 396,900	\$ 127,711	\$ 2,774,618
Edmund DiSanto <i>Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer, General Counsel and Secretary</i>	2012	\$ 500,220		\$ 1,200,010	\$ 1,200,002	\$ 567,249	\$ 23,190	\$ 3,490,671
	2011	\$ 420,000		\$ 1,000,011	\$ 1,000,011	\$ 405,720	\$ 25,568	\$ 2,851,310
	2010	\$ 400,000		\$ 900,007	\$ 900,000	\$ 348,000	\$ 19,968	\$ 2,567,975

- (1) In addition to the annual performance bonus awards that we pay to our named executive officers (included in column (g)), we periodically pay discretionary bonuses that relate to specific achievements or accomplishments. During each of 2010 and 2011, Mr. Bartlett received half of his cash signing bonus, pursuant to his letter agreement.
- (2) The amounts in column (e) reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of RSUs granted in 2012, 2011 and 2010 pursuant to our 2007 Equity Incentive Plan. See notes 1 and 14 to the consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, filed with the SEC on February 27, 2013, regarding assumptions underlying the valuation of our RSUs.
- (3) The amounts in column (f) reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively, pursuant to our 2007 Equity Incentive Plan. See notes 1 and 14 to the consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, filed with the SEC on February 27, 2013, regarding assumptions underlying the valuation of our stock options.

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- (4) The amounts in column (g) reflect for the year ended December 31, 2012, cash payments made in 2013 with respect to annual performance bonus awards for services performed in 2012; for the year ended December 31, 2011, cash payments made in 2012 with respect to annual performance bonus awards for services performed in 2011; and for the year ended December 31, 2010, cash payments made in 2011 with respect to annual performance bonus awards for services performed in 2010.

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- (5) The amounts in column (i) include for each of our named executive officers matching contributions pursuant to our 401(k) plan (or U.K. designated retirement fund for Mr. Marshall), an annual car allowance of \$12,000 and additional amounts for related auto insurance premiums. These amounts also reflect reimbursement for parking expenses at our corporate offices in Boston, which is a benefit we offer to a number of our employees who work in that office. In addition, the amounts in column (i) include certain benefits related to Mr. Marshall's status as an expatriate in the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010. In 2012, Mr. Marshall received an aggregate of \$89,140 for temporary living expenses and a goods and services differential, in 2011, Mr. Marshall received an aggregate of \$97,890 for temporary living expenses and a goods and services differential, and in 2010, he received an aggregate of \$64,556 for temporary living expenses, a settling-in allowance and a goods and services differential. For more information regarding these benefits to Mr. Marshall, see Employment and Severance Arrangements below. In accordance with SEC rules, the amounts in column (i) do not include payments for group term life insurance and other welfare benefits that are available generally to all salaried employees.

**Table of Contents****Grants of Plan-Based Awards for 2012**

The following table sets forth information relating to stock options and RSUs granted pursuant to our equity incentive plans and cash bonus opportunity awarded as part of our annual performance bonus during the year ended December 31, 2012 to each of our named executive officers.

Name (a)	Grant Date (b)	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards (1)			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units (#) (2) (i)	All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#) (3)(4) (j)	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh) (5) (k)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (6) (l)
		Threshold (\$) (c)	Target (\$) (d)	Maximum (\$) (e)				
<b>James D. Taiclet, Jr.</b>								
Cash bonus		\$ 825,000	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 2,200,000				
Option grant	3/12/2012					229,754	\$ 62.00	\$ 4,000,017
RSUs	3/12/2012				64,517			\$ 4,000,054
<b>Thomas A. Bartlett</b>								
Cash bonus		\$ 369,062	\$ 492,083	\$ 984,165				
Option grant	3/12/2012					77,542	\$ 62.00	\$ 1,350,006
RSUs	3/12/2012				21,775			\$ 1,350,050
<b>William H. Hess</b>								
Cash bonus		\$ 297,413	\$ 396,550	\$ 793,100				
Option grant	3/12/2012					71,798	\$ 62.00	\$ 1,250,003
RSUs	3/12/2012				20,162			\$ 1,250,044
<b>Steven C. Marshall</b>								
Cash bonus		\$ 296,328	\$ 395,105	\$ 790,209				
Option grant	3/12/2012					71,798	\$ 62.00	\$ 1,250,003
RSUs	3/12/2012				20,162			\$ 1,250,044
<b>Edmund DiSanto</b>								
Cash bonus		\$ 262,616	\$ 350,154	\$ 700,308				
Option grant	3/12/2012					68,926	\$ 62.00	\$ 1,200,002
RSUs	3/12/2012				19,355			\$ 1,200,010

- (1) For 2012, the bonus target for Mr. Taiclet was 100% of base salary and the bonus target for each of Messrs. Bartlett, Hess, Marshall and DiSanto was 70% of base salary. The performance bonus cannot exceed 200% of the bonus target, and typically the Compensation Committee does not award performance bonuses below 75% of the bonus target. The amounts in column (c), (d) and (e) are based on 75%, 100% and 200% of the bonus target, respectively. The actual amounts we paid in connection with our annual performance bonus awards are reflected in the Summary Compensation Table under the column captioned Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation. For more information regarding our annual performance bonus awards, see Elements of Compensation Performance Bonus Awards in our Compensation Discussion and Analysis included in this Proxy Statement.
- (2) Includes RSUs granted under the 2007 Equity Incentive Plan. All RSUs included in column (i) vest 25% annually over four years, commencing one year from the date of grant.
- (3) Includes stock options granted under the 2007 Equity Incentive Plan. All stock options included in column (j) vest 25% annually over four years, commencing one year from the date of grant.

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- (4) Column (j) includes options granted during the year ended December 31, 2012. We typically grant equity-based incentive awards to our employees, including our executive officers, as part of our annual employee performance review program conducted in February or March of each year. On March 11, 2013, in connection with annual performance reviews and the Company's annual employee equity grant, we awarded Messrs. Taiclet, Bartlett, Hess, Marshall and DiSanto stock options and RSUs pursuant to the 2007 Equity



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Incentive Plan in the amounts set forth below based on their performance for the year ended December 31, 2012 and expected future contributions to the Company. As discussed in Compensation Determinations for 2013 in our Compensation Discussion and Analysis included in this Proxy Statement, we determined the amount of stock options and RSUs based on award value. In making these awards, we reviewed the total value of prior year awards, as well as the peer group and benchmarking analyses related to equity-based awards, and then established a value for the 2013 equity-based awards to each executive.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Stock Options</b>	<b>RSUs</b>	<b>Grant Date Fair Value</b>
James D. Taiclet, Jr.	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 9,000,000
Thomas A. Bartlett	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 3,000,000
William H. Hess	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 2,800,000
Steven C. Marshall	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 2,800,000
Edmund DiSanto	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 2,700,000

The stock options have an exercise price of \$76.90, which was the closing price of our Common Stock on the NYSE on the date of grant, and have a term of ten years. All of the above stock option and RSU awards vest 25% annually over four years, commencing one year from the date of grant, subject to earlier vesting under the death, disability and retirement benefits program.

- (5) The price included in column (k) reflects the per share exercise price of each option, which is equal to the closing price of our Common Stock on the NYSE on the date of grant.
- (6) The amounts in column (l) reflect the grant date fair value of the stock and option awards granted during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012. See notes 1 and 14 to the consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, filed with the SEC on February 27, 2013, regarding assumptions underlying valuation of equity awards.

**Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table**

The compensation paid to our named executive officers in 2012, 2011 and 2010 summarized in the Summary Compensation Table is determined in accordance with employment letters and other arrangements or agreements with our executive officers, all of which are reviewed and approved by the Compensation Committee. For more information about these agreements, please see below under Employment and Severance Arrangements.

**Table of Contents****Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End for 2012**

The following table sets forth information relating to stock options and RSUs outstanding as of December 31, 2012 that were granted pursuant to our 1997 Stock Option Plan and 2007 Equity Incentive Plan, or granted under predecessor plans, to our named executive officers.

Name (a)	Option Awards (1)					Stock Awards		Equity Incentive Plan Awards:	
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable (b)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable (2) (c)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unearned Options (#) (d)	Option Exercise Price (\$) (e)	Option Expiration Date (f)	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#) (3) (g)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) (4) (h)	Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#) (i)	Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$) (j)
James D. Taiclet, Jr.	500,000			\$ 31.50	3/01/2016				
	350,000			\$ 37.52	3/15/2017				
	162,500			\$ 37.70	3/17/2018				
	142,320	47,440		\$ 28.39	3/10/2019				
	68,334	68,333		\$ 43.11	3/10/2020				
	43,835	131,502		\$ 50.78	3/10/2021				
		229,754		\$ 62.00	3/12/2022				
						14,604	\$ 1,128,451		
						23,776	\$ 1,837,172		
						44,309	\$ 3,423,756		
					64,517	\$ 4,985,229			
Thomas A. Bartlett	32,620	32,620		\$ 31.54	4/01/2019				
	33,334	33,333		\$ 43.11	3/10/2020				
	16,073	48,217		\$ 50.78	3/10/2021				
		77,542		\$ 62.00	3/12/2022				
						9,908	\$ 765,591		
						11,598	\$ 896,177		
					16,247	\$ 1,255,406			
					21,775	\$ 1,682,554			
William H. Hess		25,543		\$ 28.39	3/10/2019				
	30,000	30,000		\$ 43.11	3/10/2020				
	15,342	46,026		\$ 50.78	3/10/2021				
		71,798		\$ 62.00	3/12/2022				
						7,863	\$ 607,574		
						10,438	\$ 806,544		
					15,508	\$ 1,198,303			
					20,162	\$ 1,557,918			
Steven C. Marshall	150,000			\$ 44.92	12/03/2017				
		17,162		\$ 28.39	3/10/2019				
		30,000		\$ 43.11	3/10/2020				
	15,342	46,026		\$ 50.78	3/10/2021				
		71,798		\$ 62.00	3/12/2022				
						5,283	\$ 408,217		
					10,438	\$ 806,544			

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				15,508	\$ 1,198,303
				20,162	\$ 1,557,918
Edmund DiSanto	200,000		\$ 42.95	6/01/2017	
	21,875		\$ 37.70	3/17/2018	
	25,544	25,543	\$ 28.39	3/10/2019	
	30,000	30,000	\$ 43.11	3/10/2020	
	14,612	43,834	\$ 50.78	3/10/2021	
		68,926	\$ 62.00	3/12/2022	
				7,863	\$ 607,574
				10,438	\$ 806,544
				14,769	\$ 1,141,201
				19,355	\$ 1,495,561

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- (1) All stock options vest annually as to 25% of the original option grant amount over four years, commencing one year from the date of grant, and have a term of ten years.
- (2) For each option grant identified as unexercisable in part or in full, the following table sets forth information regarding such option grant as of December 31, 2012.

Name	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)		Option Grant Date	Original Option Grant Amount (#)
	Exercisable	Unexercisable		
James D. Taiclet, Jr.	142,320	47,440	3/10/2009	189,760
	68,334	68,333	3/10/2010	136,667
	43,835	131,502	3/10/2011	175,337
		229,754	3/12/2012	229,754
Thomas A. Bartlett	32,620	32,620	4/01/2009	130,481
	33,334	33,333	3/10/2010	66,667
	16,073	48,217	3/10/2011	64,290
		77,542	3/12/2012	77,542
William H. Hess		25,543	3/10/2009	102,174
	30,000	30,000	3/10/2010	60,000
	15,342	46,026	3/10/2011	61,368
		71,798	3/12/2012	71,798
Steven C. Marshall		17,162	3/10/2009	68,650
		30,000	3/10/2010	60,000
	15,342	46,026	3/10/2011	61,368
		71,798	3/12/2012	71,798
Edmund DiSanto	25,544	25,543	3/10/2009	102,174
	30,000	30,000	3/10/2010	60,000
	14,612	43,834	3/10/2011	58,446
		68,926	3/12/2012	68,926

- (3) Stock awards consist of RSUs granted under the 2007 Equity Incentive Plan. Each of the RSUs identified as unvested was granted on March 10, 2009, April 1, 2009, March 10, 2010, March 10, 2011 or March 12, 2012 (in descending chronological order as to the date of grant in the table for each named executive officer) and each vests annually as to 25% of the original RSU award amount over four years, commencing one year from the date of grant.
- (4) The market value of the RSU awards was determined using a stock price of \$77.27, which was the closing price of our Common Stock on the NYSE on December 31, 2012.

**Table of Contents****Option Exercises and Stock Vested for 2012**

The following table sets forth information relating to options exercised and RSUs vested in the year ended December 31, 2012 in respect of each of our named executive officers.

Name (a)	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise	Value Realized Upon Exercise	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting	Value Realized on Vesting
	(#) (b)	(\$) <sup>(1)</sup> (c)	(#) (d)	(\$) <sup>(2)</sup> (e)
James D. Taiclet, Jr.	204,491	\$ 10,249,273	52,870	\$ 3,302,571
Thomas A. Bartlett			21,123	\$ 1,322,199
William H. Hess	53,257	\$ 2,075,182	24,503	\$ 1,531,577
Steven C. Marshall	113,988	\$ 4,190,559	17,995	\$ 1,122,250
Edmund DiSanto			24,257	\$ 1,516,271

(1) Column (c) reflects the excess of the market price of the underlying securities at exercise over the exercise price.

(2) Column (e) reflects the market value of RSU awards using a stock price of \$62.22, \$63.34 and \$63.02, the closing price of our Common Stock on the NYSE on the last trading day prior to the vesting dates of each RSU.

**Employment and Severance Arrangements**

As discussed above in our Compensation Discussion and Analysis, in order to recruit and retain our executive officers, we have periodically entered into employment letters and other arrangements or agreements, all of which are reviewed and approved by the Compensation Committee. Our named executive officers are also subject to the terms of the Severance Program. The table below related to Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control for 2012 summarizes the severance benefits that would be payable to each of our named executive officers if his or her employment were to have been terminated as of December 31, 2012, with respect to the different termination scenarios set forth in their agreements with the Company. We have also summarized the effects on the compensation of our executive officers if a Change of Control of the Company were to have occurred on December 31, 2012. Under the Severance Program, our executive officers are entitled to the following severance benefits:

**Cash Severance:** Upon a Qualifying Termination, the Chief Executive Officer will be entitled to receive 104 weeks of base earnings and each Executive Vice President will be entitled to receive 78 weeks of base earnings. In addition, each executive will be entitled to a pro-rated portion of his or her target bonus for the portion of the year prior to termination, assuming 100% satisfaction of goals or objectives related thereto.

**Equity Acceleration/Vesting Provisions:** Upon a Qualifying Termination that occurs within 14 days prior to, or up to two years following, a Change of Control, each executive would also be entitled to full acceleration of vesting of all outstanding equity-based awards, including, but not limited to, stock options and RSUs.

**Benefits Continuation:** Following a Qualifying Termination, each executive will be eligible for continued health and welfare benefits, pursuant to which the Company will pay the employer share of the cost of coverage for a period equal to the number of weeks of base earnings payable under the Severance Program.

**Release of Claims, Non-Compete:** All severance benefits under the Severance Program are subject to the executive signing a separation and release agreement and a confidentiality and restrictive covenants agreement in forms satisfactory to the Company. In

addition, at the Company's discretion, the Company can require the deposit of a portion of the after-tax payments to each executive in a restricted account to

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serve as security for the executive's compliance with the ongoing covenants, restrictions and obligations contained in such agreements, with restrictions on distribution up to and including forfeiture in the event of non-compliance.

Under the Severance Program, equity awards to our executive officers are subject to a double-trigger standard, whereby the executive would only be entitled to acceleration of his or her equity awards in the event of a Qualifying Termination within 14 days before, or two years following, a Change of Control. In such an event, the executive would be entitled to acceleration of all unvested equity-based awards (including stock options and RSUs). In all other cases, the executive would not be entitled to any acceleration or continued vesting of his or her equity-based awards. In addition, the Severance Program does not provide for tax gross-ups, which certain of our executive officers had been entitled to under their employment letters before becoming subject to the Severance Program in 2009. For more information about the Severance Program, see the caption Employment and Other Agreements in our Compensation Discussion and Analysis included in this Proxy Statement.

In March 2013, we entered into a two-year letter agreement with Mr. Marshall in connection with his continuation as Executive Vice President and President of our U.S. Tower Division. In addition to terms consistent with our agreements with our other executive officers, we agreed to provide Mr. Marshall with a goods and services differential, benefits allowances, optional relocation support allowances and housing, the amounts of which the Compensation Committee reviewed with PM&P.

In February 2009, we entered into a letter agreement with Mr. Bartlett in connection with our recruitment of Mr. Bartlett as our Chief Financial Officer that sets forth his compensation, severance and other benefits. Pursuant to the agreement and in consideration of the recruitment initiatives and peer group competitive assessment data, Mr. Bartlett was eligible for a cash signing bonus of \$400,000, half of which was paid on the first anniversary of his start date of April 1, 2009, and half of which was paid on the second anniversary of his start date. The Compensation Committee also approved the grant of equity-based awards to Mr. Bartlett effective as of his April 1, 2009 start date, with a value of \$2.5 million on the date of grant, comprised 50% of non-qualified stock options (based on Black-Scholes value) and 50% of RSUs. These equity awards will vest over four years of continuous employment, or 25% per year, commencing one year from the date of the grant.

We are also a party to noncompetition agreements with Mr. Hess. We entered into a Noncompetition and Confidentiality Agreement with Mr. Hess in January 2004, amended in August 2008, in connection with the grant to Mr. Hess of options to purchase shares of ATC South America. In addition, in 2001, we entered into a similar noncompetition agreement with Mr. Hess related to ATC Mexico.

**Table of Contents****Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control for 2012**

The table below shows the potential estimated payments pursuant to our Severance Program to each named executive officer as if the individual's employment had been terminated as of December 31, 2012. While our executive officers are entitled to certain severance benefits upon a Qualifying Termination pursuant to the terms of the Severance Program, unless otherwise noted, full acceleration of vesting of outstanding equity-based awards is limited to a Qualifying Termination upon a change in control.

Name and Type of Payment/Benefit	Termination on 12/31/12: voluntary, retirement, disability, death, or for Cause	Qualifying Termination on 12/31/12: with no Change of Control	Qualifying Termination on 12/31/12: with Change of Control
<b>James D. Taiclet, Jr.</b>			
<i>Base salary (1)</i>		\$ 2,200,000	\$ 2,200,000
<i>Bonus (2)</i>		1,100,000	1,100,000
<i>Value of accelerated equity awards (3)(4)</i>			23,019,562
<i>Health benefits (5)</i>		34,073	34,073
<i>Total</i>		\$ 3,334,073	\$ 26,353,635
<b>Thomas A. Bartlett</b>			
<i>Base salary (1)</i>		\$ 1,054,463	\$ 1,054,463
<i>Bonus (2)</i>		492,083	492,083
<i>Value of accelerated equity awards (3)(4)(6)</i>		2,257,304	9,691,431
<i>Health benefits (5)</i>		25,554	25,554
<i>Total</i>		\$ 3,829,404	\$ 11,263,531
<b>William H. Hess</b>			
<i>Base salary (1)</i>		\$ 849,750	\$ 849,750
<i>Bonus (2)</i>		396,550	396,550
<i>Value of accelerated equity awards (3)(4)</i>			8,759,265
<i>Health benefits (5)</i>		25,554	25,554
<i>Total</i>		\$ 1,271,854	\$ 10,031,119
<b>Steven C. Marshall</b>			
<i>Base salary (1)</i>		\$ 846,653	\$ 846,653
<i>Bonus (2)</i>		395,105	395,105
<i>Value of accelerated equity awards (3)(4)</i>			8,150,245
<i>Health benefits (5)</i>		18,766	18,766
<i>Total</i>		\$ 1,260,524	\$ 9,410,769
<b>Edmund DiSanto</b>			
<i>Base salary (1)</i>		\$ 750,330	\$ 750,330
<i>Bonus (2)</i>		350,154	350,154
<i>Value of accelerated equity awards (3)(4)</i>			8,537,884
<i>Health benefits (5)</i>		25,554	25,554
<i>Total</i>		\$ 1,126,038	\$ 9,663,922



- (1) For Mr. Taiclet, the amount reflects salary continuation for 104 weeks, based on Mr. Taiclet's base salary as of December 31, 2012. For Messrs. Bartlett, Hess, Marshall and DiSanto, the amount reflects salary continuation for 78 weeks, based on base salary as of December 31, 2012. The Severance Program specifies that continuation of salary is to be paid bi-weekly.
  
- (2) This reflects a bonus with respect to a full year of service for the year ended December 31, 2012 and that a bonus target of 100% is met. Actual bonus payments upon separation are calculated pro-rata. For the year ended December 31, 2012, the bonus target for Mr. Taiclet was 100% of base salary and the bonus target for Messrs. Bartlett, Hess, Marshall and DiSanto was 70% of base salary.

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- (3) Value of stock options reflects the excess of the market price of our Common Stock on December 31, 2012 (\$77.27) over the exercise price of the stock option. Value of RSUs is determined using the market price of our Common Stock on December 31, 2012 (\$77.27).
- (4) As of December 31, 2012, under the Severance Program, each executive is entitled to full acceleration of vesting of all outstanding equity-based awards, including, but not limited to, stock options and RSUs, upon a Qualifying Termination that occurs within 14 days prior to, or up to two years following, a Change of Control.
- (5) For Mr. Taiclet, this amount reflects a continuation of health and dental insurance for 104 weeks, based on the employer share of the cost of coverage for this time period. For Messrs. Bartlett, Hess, Marshall and DiSanto, this amount reflects a continuation of health and dental insurance for 78 weeks, based on the employer share of the cost of coverage for this time period. All amounts are estimates based on current rates and benefits elections made by each executive for the year ended December 31, 2012.
- (6) In addition to the full acceleration of vesting of all outstanding equity-based awards upon a Change in Control in accordance with the Severance Program, under Mr. Bartlett's letter agreement with the Company, Mr. Bartlett is entitled to full acceleration of his April 1, 2009 equity awards in the event he is terminated by the Company other than for Cause or Performance Reasons.
- The Compensation Committee recently adopted a death, disability and retirement benefits program in connection with equity awards granted to executives and the broader employee population similar to our peer group companies. The benefits provide for the amendment of stock options and RSUs granted on or after January 1, 2013, to accelerate the vesting and exercise periods upon an employee's death or permanent disability, or upon an employee's qualified retirement provided certain eligibility criteria are met.

**Table of Contents****Director Compensation**

As of December 31, 2012, our standard compensatory arrangement with our non-management Directors included the following:

an annual retainer of \$60,000;

an annual payment of \$10,000 with respect to each committee on which a Director serves (except that members of the Audit Committee shall receive \$15,000);

an annual payment of \$10,000 with respect to each committee on which a Director serves as Chairperson (except that the Chairpersons of the Audit and Compensation Committees shall receive \$15,000); and

an annual payment of \$30,000 for the Lead Director of the Board.

On March 12, 2012, we granted each of the eight non-management Directors then serving on our Board a fully-vested option to purchase 3,590 shares of our Common Stock. These options were granted with an exercise price of \$62.00, which was the closing price of our Common Stock on the NYSE on the date of grant. On March 12, 2012, we also granted each of the eight non-management Directors then serving on our Board 1,009 fully vested RSUs.

The following table provides information concerning the compensation of each non-management Director who served on our Board during the year ended December 31, 2012. Information regarding the compensation of Mr. Taiclet may be found above under Executive Compensation.

**Director Compensation for 2012**

Name (a)	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)(1) (b)	Stock Awards (\$) (c)	Option Awards (\$)(2)(3) (d)	Total (\$) (h)
Raymond P. Dolan	\$ 80,000	\$ 62,558	\$ 62,502	\$ 205,060
Ronald M. Dykes	\$ 75,000	\$ 62,558	\$ 62,502	\$ 200,060
Carolyn F. Katz	\$ 90,000	\$ 62,558	\$ 62,502	\$ 215,060
Gustavo Lara Cantu	\$ 70,000	\$ 62,558	\$ 62,502	\$ 195,060
JoAnn A. Reed	\$ 75,000	\$ 62,558	\$ 62,502	\$ 200,060
Pamela D.A. Reeve (1)	\$ 110,000	\$ 62,558	\$ 62,502	\$ 235,060
David E. Sharbutt	\$ 70,000	\$ 62,558	\$ 62,502	\$ 195,060
Samme L. Thompson	\$ 85,000	\$ 62,558	\$ 62,502	\$ 210,060

(1) Effective for 2012, we modified the annual payment for Lead Director from \$20,000 to \$30,000.

(2) The amounts in columns (c) and (d) reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of awards granted for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012. See notes 1 and 14 to the consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, filed with the SEC on February 27, 2013, regarding assumptions underlying the valuation of equity awards.

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- (3) As of December 31, 2012, each non-management Director who served on our Board during 2012 held the following outstanding options to purchase Common Stock. As of December 31, 2012, all of the following options were fully vested and exercisable:

Name	Number of Securities Underlying Outstanding Options (#)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Grant Date
Raymond P. Dolan	10,000	\$ 31.50	3/01/2006
	10,000	\$ 37.52	3/15/2007
	5,000	\$ 37.70	3/17/2008
	7,152	\$ 28.39	3/10/2009
	4,167	\$ 43.11	3/10/2010
	3,653	\$ 50.78	3/10/2011
	3,590	\$ 62.00	3/12/2012
Ronald M. Dykes	12,500	\$ 42.95	6/01/2007
	5,000	\$ 37.70	3/17/2008
	7,152	\$ 28.39	3/10/2009
	4,167	\$ 43.11	3/10/2010
	3,653	\$ 50.78	3/10/2011
	3,590	\$ 62.00	3/12/2012
Carolyn F. Katz	25,000	\$ 12.11	3/04/2004
	10,000	\$ 18.15	4/01/2005
	10,000	\$ 31.50	3/01/2006
	10,000	\$ 37.52	3/15/2007
	5,000	\$ 37.70	3/17/2008
	7,152	\$ 28.39	3/10/2009
	4,167	\$ 43.11	3/10/2010
	3,653	\$ 50.78	3/10/2011
Gustavo Lara Cantu	3,590	\$ 62.00	3/12/2012
	3,653	\$ 50.78	3/10/2011
JoAnn A. Reed	25,000	\$ 40.34	8/01/2007
	5,000	\$ 37.70	3/17/2008
	7,152	\$ 28.39	3/10/2009
	4,167	\$ 43.11	3/10/2010
	3,653	\$ 50.78	3/10/2011
	3,590	\$ 62.00	3/12/2012
Pamela D.A. Reeve	10,000	\$ 12.11	3/04/2004
	10,000	\$ 18.15	4/01/2005
	10,000	\$ 31.50	3/01/2006
	10,000	\$ 37.52	3/15/2007
	5,000	\$ 37.70	3/17/2008
	7,152	\$ 28.39	3/10/2009
	4,167	\$ 43.11	3/10/2010
	3,653	\$ 50.78	3/10/2011
David E. Sharbutt	3,590	\$ 62.00	3/12/2012
	12,500	\$ 35.72	9/01/2006
	10,000	\$ 37.52	3/15/2007
	5,000	\$ 37.70	3/17/2008
	4,167	\$ 43.11	3/10/2010
	3,653	\$ 50.78	3/10/2011
Samme L. Thompson	3,590	\$ 62.00	3/12/2012
	10,000	\$ 31.50	3/01/2006
	10,000	\$ 37.52	3/15/2007
	5,000	\$ 37.70	3/17/2008
	7,152	\$ 28.39	3/10/2009
	4,167	\$ 43.11	3/10/2010
	3,653	\$ 50.78	3/10/2011
	3,590	\$ 62.00	3/12/2012



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In February 2013, based on review of peer group and benchmarking analyses, we modified the annual retainer for each Director from \$60,000 to \$65,000. Accordingly, for 2013, our standard compensatory arrangement with our non-management Directors includes the following:

an annual retainer of \$65,000;

an annual payment of \$10,000 with respect to each committee on which a Director serves (except that members of the Audit Committee shall receive \$15,000);

an annual payment of \$10,000 with respect to each committee on which a Director serves as Chairperson (except that the Chairpersons of the Audit and Compensation Committees shall each receive \$15,000); and

an annual payment of \$30,000 for the Lead Director of the Board.

In addition, Directors remain eligible to receive grants of fully vested options to purchase shares of our Common Stock and fully vested RSUs, which will typically be based on an award value of \$240,000 in the year he or she is first elected to the Board and \$125,000 annually thereafter.

**Securities Authorized For Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans**

The following table provides information about the securities authorized for issuance under our equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2012.

**Equity Compensation Plan Information**

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (3) (a)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (4) (c)
Equity compensation plans/arrangements approved by the stockholders (1)	7,798,498	\$ 44.09	22,161,884
Equity compensation plans/arrangements not approved by the stockholders (2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,798,498</b>		<b>22,161,884</b>

(1) Includes the 1997 Stock Option Plan, the 2007 Equity Incentive Plan and the American Tower Corporation 2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (ESPP).

(2) Excludes shares issuable upon outstanding options granted under equity compensation plans which we assumed in connection with various merger and acquisition transactions.

- (3) Column (a) includes 1,968,553 shares underlying outstanding RSUs. Because there is no exercise price for RSUs, such awards are not included in the weighted-average exercise price in column (b).
  
- (4) Includes 3,519,964 shares available for issuance under the ESPP and 18,641,920 shares available for grant under the 2007 Equity Incentive Plan as of December 31, 2012. Under the 2007 Equity Incentive Plan, we are authorized to grant various types of stock-based awards, including stock options, restricted stock, RSUs, stock equivalents and awards of shares of Common Stock that are not subject to restrictions or forfeiture. As the 1997 Stock Option Plan terminated in November 2007 upon the tenth anniversary of its effective date, the remaining shares subject to the 1997 Stock Option Plan are no longer available for issuance.

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**PROPOSAL 2**

**RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has selected, and the Audit Committee and the Board of Directors recommend stockholder ratification of, the firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for year ended December 31, 2013. Deloitte & Touche LLP has served as our independent registered public accounting firm since our inception.

Representatives of Deloitte & Touche LLP are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting. They will have the opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and will also be available to respond to appropriate questions from stockholders.

If the stockholders do not ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm, the Audit Committee will reconsider their selection.

**The Audit Committee and the Board of Directors recommend that the stockholders vote FOR the ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for the current fiscal year.**

**PROPOSAL 3**

**ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

Pursuant to Section 14A of the Exchange Act, we are providing our stockholders the opportunity to approve, on an advisory basis (a "say-on-pay" vote), the compensation of our named executive officers as described in "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" and related tabular and narrative disclosures in this Proxy Statement. We intend to submit our executive compensation to an advisory vote annually, consistent with the advisory vote of our stockholders at our 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Accordingly, the next advisory vote of our stockholders on executive compensation will be held at our 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

We believe that our executive officers play a critical role in the strategic, operational and financial performance of the Company that creates long-term stockholder value. Accordingly, our executive compensation philosophy is to create a balance that achieves our executive retention objectives, while rewarding our executive officers under a philosophy of pay-for-performance through an appropriate combination of base salary, performance bonus awards and long-term, equity-based compensation. Our executive compensation objectives include retaining our executive officers and aligning their interests with stockholder interests, rewarding our executive officers for individual performance that furthers the Company's achievement of its business strategies, and rewarding our executive officers for contributions to Company performance. Stockholders are urged to read the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis," accompanying compensation tables and related narrative disclosures in this Proxy Statement, which more thoroughly discuss our compensation philosophy and determinations. The Compensation Committee and the Board believe that our executive compensation program and policies are effective in implementing our compensation philosophy and in achieving its goals. Highlights of our executive compensation program and policies include the following:

Annual cash bonus awards tied directly to accomplishment of Company-specific financial and strategic goals; 50% of the award encourages executive collaboration in the achievement of Company financial targets (rental and management revenue and Adjusted EBITDA) and 50% of the award encourages individual executive achievement of strategic goals (for example, expansion of business scope, offering of new products and optimization of capital structure), including certain budget metrics.

Compensation determinations are influenced by Company performance against external measures (for example, our 29% increase in stock price during 2012 as compared to the S&P 500 of 13%).



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Equity-based incentive awards vest over time, balancing the short-term performance-driven cash bonus award with a focus on long-term stockholder value creation with a 50%-50% split between stock options and RSUs.

Equity vesting upon a change in control only upon a termination of employment ( double-trigger ) with no tax gross-ups provided in the event of a change in control of the Company.

Retirement and welfare benefits consistent with all employees, with no supplemental pension or deferred compensation plans for executive officers and limited perquisites.

Stock ownership guidelines that require each executive to own a number of shares at a multiple of his or her annual base salary (5 times base salary for our Chief Executive Officer, and 3 times base salary for our other executive officers who report directly to our Chief Executive Officer).

Annual performance bonus awards and long-term, equity-based awards with terms that, in certain circumstances, allow the Company to claw back cash and shares received pursuant to such awards, respectively, or, in the latter case, the payment to the Company of all gains realized upon disposition of such shares.

A risk review of the Company's compensation programs to determine if any elements of these programs create an inappropriate level of risk.

**Required Vote**

Approval of this resolution requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast by or on behalf of the holders of Common Stock at the Annual Meeting. While this vote is required by law, it will neither bind the Company or the Board, nor will it create or imply any change in the fiduciary duties of, or impose any additional fiduciary duty on, the Company or the Board. However, the Board encourages all stockholders to vote their shares on this matter, and will co