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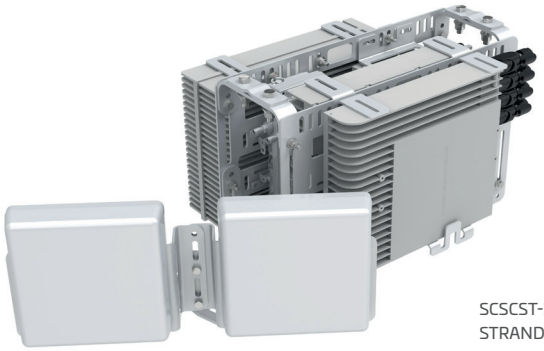
Overhead small cell mounting solutions—with less overhead

Mobile network operators (MNOs) face increasing pressure to densify their 4G and 5G small networks. As suitable locations become scarce, MNOs are turning to more creative deployments like strand-mounted sites. By attaching their small cell equipment to the existing aerial steel cabling between utility poles, operators have ready access to power and expanded deployment options.

But strand mounting is not without its challenges. It requires mounting hardware that can quickly and easily adapt to different environments and equipment designs.

CommScope's patented strand mount is designed for the rigors and variables of this unique environment—providing MNOs with a quick, simple and virtually universal solution to strand-mounted small cells. The innovative, flexible design enables operators to support their ongoing network development while reducing deployment time and cost.

In this Q&A, CommScope's Serge Honeysett explains how.



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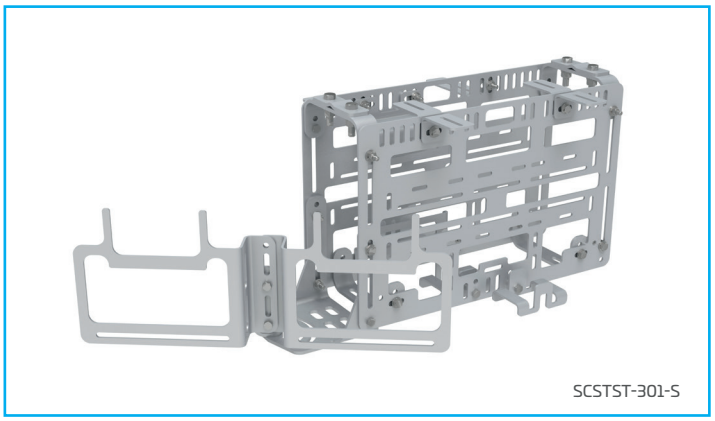
STRAND MOUNT

Q. How does the strand mount solution support ongoing upgrades?

A. Its unique design lets you use the equipment's direct-mount points or CommScope's quickly customizable brackets to attach virtually any OEM's strand-mounted equipment. As a result, you can continually grow and evolve your small cell network without replacing your strand mounts. It keeps you more agile and future-ready while reducing your upgrade time and cost, and downtime.

Q. Does it hold up in harsh environments?

A. Yes. The panels and brackets are made of powder-coated aluminum that provides long-term protection against the elements. This construction also makes it very lightweight—approximately 7.5 kg/16 lbs depending on configuration. The net effect is a solution that is easier to deploy and more reliable over time; and, by extending the product lifecycle, our strand mount solution enables MNOs to shrink their carbon footprint.



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Q. What about serviceability?

A. Maintaining network uptime with fewer skilled technicians is tough. The strand mount solution makes it easy. Attachment and holding brackets secure the equipment in place—enabling one person to easily remove and service network components with one hand. Faster troubleshooting means less downtime and reduced deployment and maintenance costs.

Q. Do I need any ballast to balance the equipment?

A. No. With our strand mount solution, balancing and leveling the equipment is as easy as adjusting the strand between the hangers. Without any ballast, you're free to add more equipment or cabling.

Q. What antenna configurations does the strand mount support?

A. There are a wide range of configuration options. Using the brackets provided with the antenna, you can combine two antennas aimed at the azimuth, to create a single directional site. Or mount two antennas a full 180 degrees apart for a pseudo-omni setup with no additional parts. A single strand mount supports up to four antennas.

Q. Can the strand mount be used for multi-tenant applications?

A. Yes. The mount will accommodate multiple components from different OEMs at the same time—enabling you to use it for multi-tenant applications.

Q. What about installation and safety?

A. Our simplified hanger design lets you use standard spreader bars to add cable/wire to the strand and lash it properly. Or simply add it to a pre-lashed strand. The strand mount can also be used with pole leashes to provide an extra layer of safety—preventing the mount from falling should a strand fail.

Tomorrow's connectivity built on today's network

CommScope strand mount solutions for small cells is part of our Outdoor Wireless Network division. With end-to-end solutions spanning all aspects of the RF path, we keep MNOs prepared for what's next.

To learn more about our strand mount small cell solutions, visit our website or contact your local CommScope representative today.

Serge Honeysett
Product Line Manager
CommScope

Serge Honeysett is a product line manager for the Metro Cell line at CommScope. He started in the telecom industry as an installer working on communications towers for Andrew Systems Inc., where he would install, maintain, and troubleshoot wireless sites and equipment.

Over the years he became a senior foreman managing internal and external teams for cellular carriers and others.

Today, as a product line manager, he supports the sales and engineering teams to create products that support current and next-generation cell site deployments in the rapidly evolving small cell ecosystem.

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