

Stephen Fortmann

382 Argo Rd, Royston GA 30662 · 678-521-5049

sfortmann@pureweb.us · www.linkedin.com/in/stephenfortmann · www.stephenfortmann.com

Telecom Executive | RF & Network Design Specialist | Rural Broadband Advocate

Telecommunications professional with 10+ years of hands-on experience in wireless network architecture, Nokia 4G/5G RAN operations, RF planning, and broadband deployments aligned with 3GPP standards. Proven ability to plan, build, and manage fixed wireless and fiber-backed networks in rural markets. Experienced in spectrum acquisition, EPC management, and working with GIS-based planning tools. Successfully secured public broadband funding and contributed to rural broadband legislation at the local, state, and federal levels. Veteran of the U.S. Air Force with a mission-driven approach to technology, leadership, and digital equity.

Experience

04/2015 – Present

Founder / CEO, Paladin Wireless

- Spearheaded end-to-end planning and deployment of fixed wireless broadband networks across rural Georgia using Nokia RAN (4G/5G) equipment
- Managed RF planning, EPC configuration, and compliance with 3GPP standards to optimize coverage and performance
- Led strategic grant-writing efforts, securing over \$500K in ARPA funding and multiple rural spectrum licenses
- Executed a 30-year lease for B41 spectrum to ensure long-term service availability across 20+ counties
- Provided subject matter expertise to lawmakers and public agencies on rural broadband initiatives
- Directed network expansion efforts with a focus on digital equity and infrastructure sustainability
- Developed advanced Excel-based financial models to forecast revenue, generate proformas, and evaluate business viability for broadband expansion projects

06/2006 – 2022

CEO / President, Pure WD LLC

- Founded a custom web and application development firm that grew to 15 employees
- Pioneered one of the first WYSIWYG website editors, pre-dating modern platforms like WordPress

- Designed and maintained enterprise-grade backend systems for major real estate firms including Century 21 and RE/MAX
- Led development of the first 3D MMORPG children's game using Unity and SmartFox
- Created sustainable revenue streams through custom applications that addressed niche market needs
- Partnered with the Art Institute of Atlanta to develop a robust internship-to-hire pipeline

06/1994 – 06/2002

Personnel Systems Specialist, United States Air Force

- Served in Military Personnel Flight during Gulf War; received National Defense Service Medal
- Managed digital personnel records via DOD SPERRY Database
- Briefed incoming personnel during base orientation and processed temporary duty (TDY) members
- Supervised issuance of military ID cards and DEERS enrollment for dependents

Education & Professional Training

- Computer Information Systems, Middle Georgia Technical College (2002)
- Personnel Systems Maintenance, Community College of the Air Force (1995)
- High School Diploma, Dunwoody High School (1993)
- Certified Professional Installer (CPI), WISPA
- Ubiquiti Broadband Wireless Admin (UBWA)
- Microsoft Office Specialist Certification
- Tower Climbing and Safety Certification (Fall Protection, Rescue Procedures, Climber Endorsement)

Skills

Network & Telecom Infrastructure:

- Nokia RAN (4G/5G), RF Planning & Design (3GPP), EPC Management, Fixed Wireless
- Broadband Deployment, Spectrum Licensing, ARCGIS, Google Earth

Technical & Development:

- Amazon AWS (EC2, Lightsail, S3), MySQL/SQL, HTML/CSS, Visual Basic
- UI/UX Design, Graphic Design

Business & Operations:

- Financial Forecasting, Proforma Creation, Revenue Modeling
- Project Management, Grant Writing, Microsoft Office, QuickBooks
- Leadership, Public Speaking, Strategic Visioning

Activities

Outside of work, I enjoy time with my large and loving family. I love to preach and lead Bible study and sing in church with my wife. Being a husband and father is my greatest joy, and I strive to be present in my family's life and support them in every way.