

Third Thursdays at Three: **PREC/NAB Takeaways**

May 21st 2026 – 3pm-4pm Mountain Time

PREC/NAB Takeaways, Remote Access, PMI/PRX Resources, and Shared Engineering Follow-Up

Date of session: May 21, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Mountain Time

Host: Bill Sundahl, RMCR Shared Engineering Initiative Project Coordinator

Contact: 816.365.3128 | pc@rockymountaincommunityradio.org

Purpose of Third Thursdays at Three

Third Thursdays at Three is a monthly recurring open office hour for RMCR member station engineers, operations staff, and station leaders. The first session introduced the format, shared learning from PREC/NAB, and identified near-term Shared Engineering Initiative follow-up needs. Future sessions can bring in experts from member stations, vendors, legal/compliance advisors, and public media infrastructure partners.

Quick Resource Links

RMCR Shared Engineering Initiative page:

<https://rockymountaincommunityradio.org/rmcr-share-engineering-initiative/>

RMCR Engineering Slack: Use the engineering channel for quick questions and peer support.

Simply email pc@rockymountaincommunityradio.org to get added to the Engineering Slack Channel

If you want to manage your Slack notifications. Here is some help:

<https://slack.com/help/articles/201355156-Configure-your-Slack-notifications>

Notes from a meeting with Chad Lampe to share opportunities for RMCR form PMI and PRX.

 PRX / PMI Meeting Notes

Brief report to explain PRX Networks

 PRX Networks Overview for Maeve Conran

Link to research and contact for 2026 PREC Presenters

 PREC_2026_Presenter_Contact_Research.docx

Issues or questions? Reach out to Bill Sundahl, RMCR Engineering Project Coordinator
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Key Takeaways

1. ContentDepot Edge is coming. NPR is moving away from CBAN satellite distribution toward internet-based ContentDepot Edge. The system is designed for very low latency and is already being tested at several stations, including KBUT, KUNC, and Aspen Public Radio.
2. Cybersecurity needs to be treated as a broadcast engineering issue. KOTO experienced a real-world hack of an internet-connected Orban audio processor that caused roughly 90 minutes of disruption. Internet-connected broadcast equipment should be reviewed for security, remote access exposure, passwords, firmware, and firewall/VPN practices.
3. Remote access and monitoring are central to the Shared Engineering Initiative. Several PREC/NAB presenters showed tools that may help stations monitor legacy equipment, tower sites, transmitters, audio processors, power systems, and network status.
4. PMI and PRX may offer significant free or low-cost resources through 2030. PRX Networks could support RMCR content sharing, regional collaboration, and a closed internal network, but RMCR would need a “home station” and a clear admin structure.
5. The roving engineer role is moving forward. The job posting is targeted for early June, with a goal of hiring by the end of August. The role will need broad RF, studio, IT, documentation, troubleshooting, travel, and project-management skills.
6. Station reports and Airtable will become the operating backbone. Station visit reports will be confirmed with each station before projects, equipment, and needs are entered into Airtable. A web form will allow future project submissions.
7. A Shared Equipment Library is planned. Stations will be able to list surplus or reusable equipment through an Airtable-based “trash or treasure” style system.

PREC/NAB Topics Worth Following Up On

ContentDepot Edge / NPR Distribution

Presenters: Badri Munipalla, Jon Cyphers, Mike Pilone, NPR Distribution

Why it matters: NPR affiliate stations need to understand timing, technical requirements, redundant internet expectations, and replacement planning as satellite distribution is phased out.

Follow-up: Connect interested NPR stations with KBUT, KUNC, Aspen Public Radio, and NPR Distribution contacts.

Audio Processing Placement

Presenter: Leif Claesson, Claesson Edwards Audio

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Core idea: Processing after the STL may produce better results than processing before STL compression, but this can be expensive for multi-site systems because each tower site may need processing.

Station note: KOTO may want to review possible double-processing caused by a pre-STL processor and a Nautel transmitter with built-in Orban processing.

Transmitter Planning and Repair-or-Replace Decisions

Presenter: Jeff Welton, Nautel

Core idea: New transmitters increasingly include integrated remote access, monitoring, and processing features that may reduce the need for some external devices. Stations still need to consider single-point-of-failure risk.

Follow-up: Share Nautel's monthly engineering Q&A link with RMCR stations.

Cybersecurity Incident: KOTO Orban Processor

Station example: KOTO's Orban processor was accessed by an outside party, causing the audio to drop out every few seconds. The processor has been disconnected from the internet.

Recommended next steps for stations:

- Inventory internet-connected broadcast devices.
- Remove direct public internet exposure where possible.
- Use firewall/VPN-controlled access instead of open remote-access ports.
- Confirm passwords, firmware, and vendor security settings.
- Document recovery steps for processors, transmitters, automation, and network gear.

FCC NCE Translator Window

Presenter: Derek Teslik, Gray Miller Persh LLP

Contact: dteslik@graymillerpersh.com | 202-559-7489

Core idea: The FCC is expected to open a non-commercial educational translator filing window in fall 2026. Stations considering translator opportunities should begin technical and legal planning early.

Practical note from PREC: If applying, consider multiple applications within the allowed limit when there is a strategic reason to do so. Multiple filings may create flexibility and potential partnership opportunities.

Remote Access, Monitoring, and Network Tools

Optimized Media Group / OMG

Presenter: Alex Hartman

Topic: Command and control systems that can help legacy equipment communicate with modern monitoring dashboards.

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Why it matters: May be useful for stations that need practical, lower-cost ways to monitor systems that were not originally networked.

Follow-up: Send OMG contact information to Sandi/KLZR and consider OMG for a future TTT.

SuiteLife Systems / NFB Consulting

Presenter: Charles Sotto

Topic: GPX-32 / GPX-PRO self-contained network monitoring platforms.

Why it matters: Another possible tool for tower-site and facility monitoring.

SD-WAN / Broadcast Telecom / Spectrotel

Presenters: Dan Merwin and Michael Chase

Topic: Telecom circuits and SD-WAN for broadcast facilities.

Why it matters: Potentially helpful for complex multi-site networks and security, though likely more expensive than some member stations can justify.

Contact noted: dan@broadcasttelecom.org

Power Systems

Presenter: Mike Hutchens, MaxxKonnnect

Topic: Identifying site power systems.

Why it matters: Better understanding of site power, grounding, phase, backup power, and cellular priority access can help prevent outages and improve emergency response planning.

Antennas, Transmission Lines, and Training

Presenter: Cory Edwards, Dielectric

Contact: Cory.Edwards@Dielectric.com | 207-655-8131

Topic: Advances in FM antenna technology.

Why it matters: Dielectric may be a good future TTT guest. They are also offering training opportunities for transmission systems.

Automation, Revenue, and Public-Facing Technology

SoundStack / Programmatic Revenue

Presenter: John Morris

Topic: Programmatic underwriting/ad insertion for public radio streams.

Note: Revenue potential depends on sales capacity and fit with station values.

Xperi / AutoStage

Presenter: Juan Galdamez

Topic: Automotive dashboard metadata and analytics.

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Why it matters: Stations need to understand how station information, branding, and metadata appear in modern vehicles.

Inrush / PPM Undercounting

Presenter: Rob Bertrand

Topic: PPM undercounting of spoken-word stations and practical steps to improve measurement.

Why it matters: Useful for stations that rely on audience data or want better representation of spoken-word formats.

Contact: rob@inrush.net | 312-586-7442

StreamGuys

Presenter: Jeffrey Soderberg

Topic: How engineers contribute to public radio revenue growth.

Note: Streaming systems, pre-rolls, and analytics may connect technical choices with fundraising and underwriting strategy.

Myriad Broadcast Software / Studio-Free Workflows

Presenter: Scott Fybush

Topic: Studios or no studios at all.

Core idea: Stations can rethink studio needs, remote production, and small-footprint broadcast setups.

Contact: scott@fybush.com

PMI / PRX / Public Media Infrastructure

Contacts:

Chad Lampe, PRX Director of Public Media Partnerships: chad.lampe@prx.org | 612-330-9212

PRX Help Desk: membership@prx.org

PMI public route: info@publicmedia.tech

What PRX Networks Is

PRX Networks is a private content distribution platform that allows selected stations, producers, and newsrooms to share audio, text, and video within a defined network.

For RMCR, it could function as a closed internal content-sharing network for member stations.

Potential RMCR Uses

- Local news and public affairs sharing
- Emergency information and special coverage
- Arts, culture, and music features

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- Shared regional projects
- Tracking downloads and carriage activity
- Operational announcements and collaboration

Requirements and Open Questions

- One “home station” must host the network.
- The home station likely needs CPB or NFCB eligibility for free PMI/PRX access.
- RMCR should define admin responsibilities, onboarding needs, permission structure, costs, and how this relates to Slack or other communication channels.

Immediate Actions for Member Stations

- Sign up for PMI updates at publicmedia.tech.
- Check whether your station is eligible for PRX/PMI services through NFCB membership or former/current CPB funding.
- Identify whether PRX Networks could help your station share or receive regional content.

Shared Engineering Initiative Updates

The shared roving engineer position is being developed with a target job posting in early June and a target hire by the end of August. The role will likely include planned station visits, project implementation, emergency/reactive support, documentation, remote access and monitoring support, and coordination with existing station contractors.

Station Reports and Airtable

Each station will receive its site visit report for review and confirmation. Once confirmed, projects and station information will be entered into Airtable. Airtable will become a shared project tracking and equipment/resource system, with limited editing access and broader read-only access.

Shared Equipment Library

A Shared Equipment Library will be built into Airtable. Stations will be able to submit surplus equipment with make, model, serial number, condition, and notes. This is intended to help member stations reuse equipment before it is discarded.

Engineering Communication

The RMCR Slack engineering channel is available now. An engineering-specific email listserv may also be useful for those who do not want to use Slack or who only want engineering-related communication.

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Third Thursdays at Three — Session 2 Resource Page

Remote Access Priorities, Monitoring, Documentation, and Practical Implementation

Date of session: June 18, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Mountain Time

Recording: Click Here for a Recording of the Meeting [insert recording link]

Session Focus

This session focused on how RMCR member stations can decide which equipment needs remote access, how to prioritize remote monitoring needs from highest to lowest, and how to begin building practical systems that