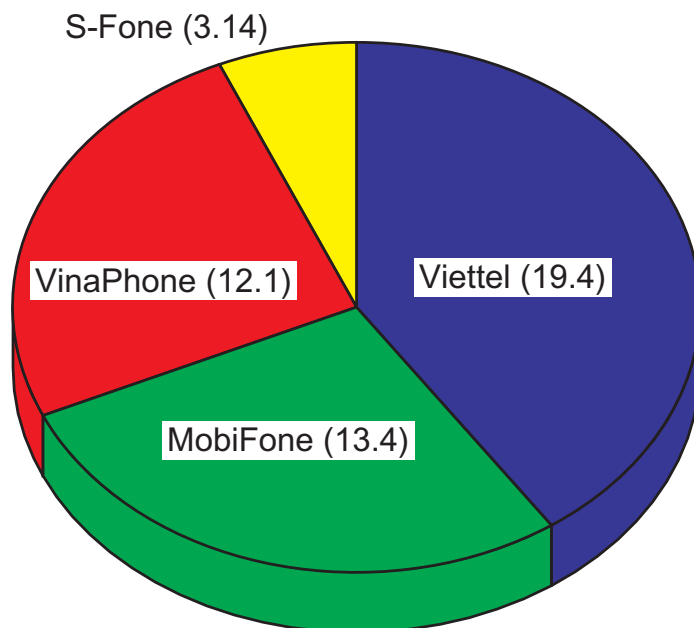# AsiaPacific

T E L E C O M

Monthly Newsletter Covering Telecom Developments in the Asia Pacific & Japan

Vol. 12 No. 7 **July 2008**

Vietnam mobile subscriber market share

S-Fone (3.14)

VinaPhone (12.1)

Viettel (19.4)

MobiFone (13.4)

Source: Ministry of Information and Communications

ACROSS THE REGION

BT to unveil converged fixed-wireless enterprise service in Asia

British Telecom said that it intends to launch its converged fixed-wireless enterprise service into the Asia

market. "Corporate Fusion" enables seamless handoff between mobile and Wi-Fi networks and will reduce roaming bills for corporationa. The service also enables automatic migration to corporate PBX networks. According to BT's general manager for portfolio and partnerships, Nathan Bell, the service is being tested within the firm's regional offices. He said that the reconfiguration of WLAN networks for handling voice was a huge technological challenge, adding that the company will launch the service via public Wi-Fi hotspots. This service is likely to be launched in the third quarter.

AUSTRALIA

IPRIMUS unveils new ADSL2+ service offering 200Gb in Australia

Australian broadband operator iPRIMUS, which was the first player to launch high-speed broadband plans in 1999, has launched its "Big Kahuna," an ADSL2+ service that is capable of providing 200 gigabytes of data. The company has stated that no other service offers this magnitude of data to the residential users in the country, adding that Big Kahuna will cater to the heavy Internet users who frequently download large files, music, and videos. Ravi Bhatia, chief executive officer of Primus Australia, said that the launch of Big Kahuna is an important achievement for iPRIMUS and reflects the company's unparalleled leadership in the broadband segment. He added that the service will be particularly attractive to people and families who are frequent users of the Internet. According to Andrew Sims, iPRIMUS marketing manager, the 200-gig ADSL2+ service will cost $79.95 per month.

Alcatel-Lucent collaborates with Telstra Corporation to launch mobile TV testing facility in Australia

Alcatel-Lucent, in cooperation with Telstra Corporation, announced the opening of a mobile TV handset testing service center in Melbourne, Australia. The facility was developed to support Telstra's Mobile FOXTEL TV service and will help ensure that Alcatel-Lucent's MiTV application and the Mobile FOXTEL service are compatible with and operate smoothly on the handsets that Telstra offers to its customers. The first Alcatel-Lucent facility of its kind outside of France, the center represents a key step forward in bringing mobile TV-ready handsets to market quickly, dramatically reducing delivery time from up to three months to just 15 days. Seen as key to ensuring the reliability and availability of new applications, the facility will test up to 100 UMTS 3G-enabled handset models a year, including models from the all the major manufacturers, to ensure their compatibility and suitability for the network and the anticipated applications and services to be offered. Testing will involve Streamezzo, which supplies a rich media client software application to support Alcatel-Lucent's MiTV application and Mobile FOXTEL service on the handsets being offered by Telstra.

Macquarie to advise Telstra on its broadband network bid

Macquarie Group has been selected as the advisor of Australia's premier phone firm, Telstra Corp Ltd., for the latter's bid to construct a high-speed broadband network in the country. Telstra has chosen Macquarie Capital Advisers to give sound advice on its bid and is hoping to use Macquarie's expertise in engineering financial agreements.

Macquarie has advised Telstra against going ahead with another bid to head a consortium for landing a new broadband network. Earlier, the Australian government invited bids for building an $8.94 billion fiber-optic network to boost Internet access in the country. Telecom players had lodged a $4.75 million bond in May for participating in the tender process. Optus, a division of Singapore Telecommunications Ltd., has lodged a bond for itself and also for "Terria," a consortium comprising of eight members.

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh to provide free Internet to around 40,000 primary schools

Bangladeshi telecom watchdog Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has announced that it will provide free broadband Internet services to around 40,000 state-owned primary schools for increasing the Internet user base in rural regions. BTRC is seriously contemplating expanding information technology services to villages where around 70 percent of the Bangladeshi population of 144 million resides. According to the regulator, broadband would be made free for the 37,500 state-owned primary schools. Moreover, there would also be a 75 percent reduction in charges for several state-owned high schools, colleges, and universities. Samiul Wadud, CEO of Bangladeshi ISP BOL, said that the slash in charges of broadband bandwidth will make Internet more affordable and would eventually double the Internet user base from the current 3 million in less than one year. The mobile subscriber base of Bangladesh, which is one of the poorest countries in the world, increased from 1.5 million in 2004 to over 42 million by the end of May.

AKTEL keen to launch 3G services in Bangladesh

Malaysia-based telecom giant Telekom Malaysia and its new ally in AKTEL, NTT DoCoMo, are planning to launch 3G technology in Bangladesh. The Japan-based NTT DoCoMo said that the two firms are looking to improve AKTEL's corporate value by launching 3G services, adding that this would add to the company's consolidated revenues and dividends and enhance its overall competitiveness. DoCoMo recently announced that it would acquire AK Khan and Company's 30 percent holding in AKTEL in a deal worth $350 million. This transaction is likely to be completed by the end of 2008. Yusof Annuar Yaacob, CEO of Telekom Malaysia, stated that DoCoMo's enviable expertise in telecom technology and marketing would help to improve its position in the Bangladeshi market. Even industry experts are convinced that DoCoMo's alliance with AKTEL will pose a threat for other companies. They believe that large Bangladeshi operators like Banglalink and Grameenphone are seriously awaiting new technologies like 3G.

CHINA

China beats US to emerge as the biggest broadband subscriber market in Q1

Market Research Company Dittberner Associates stated that China has overtaken the United States as the biggest broadband market in Q1. China posted a growth of 29 percent when compared to the previous year and ended the quarter with 71.6 million users. This is around 1.4 million more than the US, which witnessed a subscriber growth of 12 percent in Q4 of 2007. Meanwhile, the worldwide global broadband user base increased 5 percent in Q1 to reach 355 million. Japan, Germany, the UK, France, and Korea follow the US. Germany posted the second-biggest yearly growth at 23.4 percent, while Korea's growth was the lowest at 4 percent. According to Dittberner, Germany is unlikely to overtake the third-ranked Japan anytime soon. Meanwhile the DOCSIS 3.0-compliant 100Mbps HFC is the leading broadband technology globally; Korea-based Hanaro Telecom has taken the lead in this technology and added over 400,000 users since Q2 2007.

Beijing will soon get access to high-speed wireless Internet

According to Sina.com, Beijing will soon get access to high-speed wireless Internet services after the commencement of the "wireless Beijing" program. The report said that the wireless broadband service would be offered for free during the upcoming Olympic Games.

Service provider CECT-Chinacomm Communications will execute the program in three different phases, with the trial operations of the first phase beginning from June 25, 2008, to cover 100 square kilometers. The second phase is expected to be complete by 2009, while the third phase will be implemented by 2010. Residents of the city could access the wireless Internet through PDAs or Wi-Fi-enabled mobile phones. Under the plan, CECT-Chinacomm Communications would construct around 9,000 wireless access points in public areas, in addition to 150 WiMAX stations, by the end of 2009 to provide Wi-Fi to over 90 percent of Beijing streets.

Sharp to launch its new mobile phone for China's upscale phone users

According to a Reuters report, Japan-based Sharp has said that it is planning to target wealthy mobile-phone users by launching its new mobile phone this summer. Sharp is eyeing high-end phone users in Beijing and Shanghai in order to evade competition from cheaper handsets sold by the likes of Samsung Electronics and Nokia. The report added that this move by Sharp involves a lot of risk as several Japanese handset producers like Kyocera and NEC have suffered losses in the Chinese market despite launching cutting-edge handsets. Sharp is planning to launch its first handset in China for around $435.9. The company, which is the biggest handset manufacturer in Japan, plans to launch another two or three handsets in China by this year's end.

China Telecom talking with foreign companies to fund its acquisition of China Unicom's CDMA operations

China Telecom said that it is holding talks with foreign investors for funding its plan of acquiring China Unicom's CDMA business, according to an AFP report. China Telecom's chairman, Wang Xiaochu, said that around four or five firms have shown some interest in the offer. The report added that the potential partners include South Korea-based SK Telecom, Singapore Telecom, and CDMA technology pioneer Qualcomm. China Telecom had recently announced its decision to acquire the CDMA assets of China Unicom. But the company apparently has to pay nearly $16 billion for the acquisition.

China launches new communications satellite

China has unveiled a new communications satellite named Zhongxing-9 from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center situated in Sichuan Province. This communications satellite was placed atop the Long March-3B rocket carrier Zhongxing-9 has been ordered by France-based Thales Alenia Space as well as China Satcom and would be used for live TV broadcast. It is likely to be used before the commencement of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games this August. People will now be able to view live Olympic events through the satellite. China Satcom had inked the launch service deal with the China Great Wall Industrial Corporation (CGWIC) in November 2005. CGWIC, which is the only Chinese firm that deals with the provision of international satellite services, has launched 34 international satellites for 28 services.

China's cellular user base increases to 592 million in May 2008

The cell-phone user base of China reached 592 million by the end of May 2008, accounting for nearly 50 percent of its population of 1.3 billion. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology stated that the mobile user base increased by 44.8 million during the first five months of 2008, attributing this growth to the mobile operators' decision to slash tariff rates. The landline user base declined by 6.5 million to 358 million. The Chinese telecom sector posted revenues of $48 billion during the

first five months, representing a year-on-year increase of 9.6 percent. On the other hand, fixed-access investment in the telecom industry increased 2.7 percent to $11 billion.

China Telecom selects Alcatel-Lucent for IP metro area network expansion

China's biggest landline operator, China Telecom, has inked a multimillion-Euro contract with French vendor Alcatel-Lucent for expanding a countrywide IP metro area network. Alcatel-Lucent bagged this contract via Alcatel Shanghai Bell, its flagship firm in China. Under the terms of the deal, Alcatel-lucent will be responsible for providing IP routing solution to China Telecom, which will allow the operator to deliver IP services to business and residential users. China Telecom would also be providing multiple IP-based services like IPTV, 3G broadband wireless, and virtual private network (VPN) services on one network infrastructure. Alcatel Lucent Shanghai Bell president Olivia Qiu said that the deal reflects the confidence shown by China Telecom in the vendor's service routing portfolio.

Fujitsu wins major server, storage order from China Mobile Communications

Fujitsu announced that China Mobile Communications Corporation, the country's largest mobile-phone carrier, has selected Fujitsu's SPARC Enterprise UNIX servers, ETERNUS storage equipment, and PRIMECLUSTER middleware for its core information system, which is to be deployed in all 31 provinces, cities, and autonomous regions in mainland China. Fujitsu will also set up 24x7 maintenance support sites across mainland China and dispatch personnel and supply maintenance components to the sites as part of a support network to keep the system running smoothly. With close to 400 million subscribers, China Mobile Communications boasts the world's largest mobile subscriber base and network, and is rapidly expanding its IT system

in order to build an advanced network that will serve as an important infrastructure spanning China's vast territory.

Global Crossing provides Eurovision link to Brazil during Beijing 2008 Olympics

Global Crossing, a global IP solutions provider, announced that it will provide a link between Rio de Janeiro and New York for Eurovision, a premier sports and news content distributor for the world's top broadcast and media platforms, during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. The contract expands the broadcaster's existing Private Line Services to accommodate enhanced audio-visual content.

"Eurovision has over 50 years of experience in putting sports programming exactly where broadcasters and federations want it, in a seamless, reliable and cost-effective way," said Stefan Kuerten, director of Eurovision operations. "We're delighted to work with Global Crossing for this vital SDH leg in our worldwide video network. Global Crossing delivers highly reliable and secure services, which are critical for our operations."

Global Crossing Private Line services provide highly reliable, secure, point-to-point, digital connectivity for a wide range of applications used by enterprise customers, including hosting, resource planning, business continuity, content distribution, and disaster recovery.

"This agreement with Eurovision illustrates our ability to meet the exacting demands of the corporate market in Brazil and worldwide," said Marcos Malfatti, Global Crossing's senior vice president of sales in Brazil. "Our success is based on our commitment to understanding the needs of our customers and to becoming a key business partner to them."

Global Crossing Private Line services also support high-bandwidth operations such as large data transfers, medical imaging, record archiving, database sharing and replication, and

remote office access to application servers. The services' capacities range from T1/E1 up to OC-48/STM-16.

ZTE believes that LTE will beat WiMAX and UMB to become the mainstream 4G technology

According to Chinese telecom equipment vendor ZTE, long-term evolution (LTE) will become the mainstream technology for 4G (fourth-generation) technology by beating other technologies like ultramobile broadband (UMB) and WiMAX. LTE is the fourth-generation standard for W-CDMA and GSM networks. Shen Donglin, VP of wireless technology at ZTE USA, stated that even CDMA players would prefer LTE over UMB technology owing to economies of scale.

Mr. Shen quoted the example of China Telecom, which has dumped UMB to focus on LTE. China Telecom Chairman Wang Xiaochu has said that the firm would upgrade the CDMA network to EV-DO Rev A and then migrate it to LTE. Other wireless carriers like Verizon Wireless are also planning to trial LTE in 2009. Shen remains optimistic about the future of WiMAX technology, as it is vendor-driven.

Asiaspace grants WiMAX deal to Huawei

Malaysian company Asiaspace has selected Chinese telecom equipment vendor Huawei Technologies for supplying an end-to-end WiMAX solution. Airspan was one of the four firms that were granted 2.3GHz WiMAX spectrum in the country.

Asiaspace chairman Datuk Abdul Ghani Abdullah said that the company is contemplating investing close to $153.7 million in the next three to five years to for launching its broadband wireless service.

He said that the company is on track to become the biggest WiMAX operator in Malaysia by 2012 in terms of user base as well as revenues. Asiaspace plans to deploy its service in the third quarter of 2008 to encompass 25 percent of the population in Malaysia by the end of 2008. It is confident of expanding the service to 40 percent of the population by 2010.

UTStarcom plans to sell its MSBU

UTStarcom Inc. is contemplating selling its Mobile Solutions Business Unit (MSBU) while retaining its Little Smart business. Industry experts said that the reorganization in the telecom industry is likely to revive the struggling Little Smart business since China Telecom will complete an upgrade of the national-roaming Little Smart network.

UTStarcom's mobile business comprises IPCDMA (Internet Protocol code division multiple access) and will be taken over by private equity company OpenGate Capital. UTStarcom said that the MSBU will be known as Star Solutions.

According to Peter Blackmore, UTStarcom's CEO, this sale forms part of the company's strategy to capitalize on exciting opportunities in IP technologies like broadband and next-generation broadband. Meanwhile, UTStarcom China is maintaining its vigilance on the demand of its Little Smart business.

Beijing government selects Alcatel-Lucent for security services and mission-critical communications

Alcatel-Lucent announced that it has been selected by the Beijing municipal government to deploy an optical transport network solution in Beijing, to enhance e-government security services and deliver mission-critical communications.

The project, which follows the announcement of Alcatel-Lucent's selection for China's national e-government network transformation project in December 2007, is scheduled for completion by August 2008. This contract was signed through Alcatel Shanghai Bell, Alcatel-Lucent's flagship company in China. The e-government network, based on Alcatel-Lucent's optical multiservice solution, will link

the units of the Beijing municipal government and enable the introduction of new applications such as videoconferencing.

It will empower the Beijing government with stronger communications capabilities in security services, including command dispatch or emergency handling.

"This new contract confirms Alcatel-Lucent as a trusted partner for e-governments projects that allow citizens to access advanced service capabilities from their governments," said Olivia Qiu, president of Alcatel Shanghai Bell.

"Our market-leading optical solutions and professional services will help the Beijing government upgrade its networks, enhance security applications for all of its citizens and visitors while minimizing operational costs."

Hutchison Telecom launches iPhone 3G in Hong Kong

Hong Kong's mobile and landline communications service provider Hutchison Telecommunications International Ltd launched iPhone 3G in the country on July 11. Hutchison Telecom, which is the first iPhone 3G service provider in Greater China, plans to equip this device with Chinese-language support based on its HSDPA network. But the operator, which is the biggest 3G cellular operator in the country, declined to reveal the price of the iPhone 3G. Hutchison Telecom had 1.15 million 3G users at the end of March.

China Mobile inks $1 billion contract with Alcatel-Lucent

China Mobile, the biggest mobile-phone operator in the world, has inked a $1 billion deal with Alcatel-Lucent for purchasing a diverse range of 3G (third-generation) and wireless networking equipment. An IDG News report stated that the French telecom equipment vendor has now emerged as the leader in providing 3G technology based on China's indigenous 3G standard TD-SCDMA (time division synchronous code division multiple access). Alcatel Shanghai Bell, the affiliate of Alcatel-lucent, bagged this contract, which entails the provision of transmission/IP routers, core network equipment, and other services. The TD-SCDMA networks would be extensively used during the upcoming 2008 Beijing Olympics in August.

Datang to sell its stake in T3G Technology

Xinhua news agency reports that Datang Mobile Communications Equipment has decided to withdraw from the joint venture T3G Technology, which provides mobile-phone chips based on the TD-SCDMA standard.

T3G was established in 2003 by NXP Semiconductors (42.7 percent stake), Samsung (16.912 percent), and Motorola (32.11 percent). According to the Beijing Equity exchange, the company is intending to sell its 32.11 percent stake in T3G. Market reports suggest that STMicroelectronics is the likely candidate to acquire Datang Mobile's stake in T3G, which posted just $187,565 in revenues and suffered a loss of $17.05 million in the first half of this year.

China Unicom to conclude the assessment of its CDMA assets by end of July

Shanghai's Securities News reported that China Unicom is planning to conclude the valuation of its CDMA assets by the end of July. China Unicom has asked its provincial affiliates to gauge the value of its CDMA network, asking them to finish the process by June 25. Meanwhile, China Unicom and China Telecom are intending to assess the value of the CDMA assets by the end of July. Definition of assets remains a huge concern for the company, which explains the reason why it sought the intervention of industrial experts for providing a feasible solution.

China Unicom intends to shift around 240 members from its headquarters to China Telecom.

Huawei wins $1.36 million deal to install 33,000 ADSL lines for STE

According to the Syria Report Newsletter, Chinese telecom equipment vendor Huawei Technologies has been awarded a $1.36 million deal by Syrian state-run Internet and landline operator Syrian Telecommunications Establishment (STE) for installing 33,000 new ASDL lines in the country. STE currently provides dialup as well as ADSL broadband service via two 100 percent-owned Internet service providers, Syrian Computer Society and 190. The number of broadband users in the country increased to 16,500 by the end of 2007, while the dialup user base reached 300,000.

China Telecom to buy Unicom's CDMA business for more than $5 billion

According to the South China Morning Post, China Telecommunications Group is set to announce the buyout of the CDMA operations of China Unicom Group for more than $14.42 billion. The buyout includes more than $8.65 billion for the network of China United Telecommunications Group, the parent group of Unicom. The newspaper said that this development is indicative of China telecom's intention to commence a mobile business. Chinese media had previously stated that Unicom was planning to raise $17.30 billion for its CDMA business.

UTStarcom to provide IPTV equipment to SLT

UTStarcom Inc. announced that it has inked a multimillion-dollar deal for providing its Internet Protocol television (IPTV) equipment to Sri Lanka Telecom Public Ltd. Co. (SLT). The firm said that the new deal with SLT's ally, Just In Time Holdings Pvt. Ltd., will expedite the provision of Internet, voice, and TV services to SLT's 1.3 million customers in the island nation. The initial deployment of the IPTV equipment from UTStarcom is capable of supporting around 100,000 subscribers in the next couple of years. The rollout will also allow the Sri Lankan firm to deliver video services on copper lines over the next three to four years.

Telefonica looking to buy 10 percent stake in China Unicom

The Financial Times reported on its Web site that Telefonica SA (TEF) is keen to acquire a 10 percent stake in China Unicom Ltd. after the revamping of the Chinese telecommunications industry. The report stated that Telefonica currently owns a 5 percent stake in China Netcom Group Corp., which is also its strategic ally. Its stake in China Netcom is likely to rise to 7.2 percent. China Unicom is slated to buy China Netcom later on this year. Despite the fact that Telefonica's stake in the enlarged entity will be reduced to 3 percent, the Spanish company is in a fairly good position to pursue a strategic alliance with China Unicom.

China Telecom awards Alcatel-Lucent contract for nationwide IP metro area network expansion

Alcatel-Lucent has been selected by China Telecom, China's largest fixed network operator, for expansion of its nationwide IP metro area networks. Alcatel-Lucent will provide its IP routing solution to help China Telecom deliver premium IP services to its residential and business customers. The project supports China Telecom's initiative to transform itself into a full-service operator. The contracts, valued at several million Euros, were secured through Alcatel-Lucent's flagship company in China, Alcatel Shanghai Bell.

CAMBODIA

CadComms unveils 3G W-CDMA and becomes the fifth mobile operator of Cambodia

According to the Bangkok Post, Cambodia Advance Communications (CadComms) has unveiled its 3G (third-

generation) W-CDMA services under the banner QB (cube). The network attracted 57,000 users on the opening day, mainly due to free SIM offerings and a launch-day concert. The price for unlimited data for students is $30 per month, or $35 for personal use. Although the new network is capable of providing speeds of 7.2Mbps, the existing speed being offered is 1.6Mbps. CadComms has become the fifth mobile operator in Cambodia. But company chief executive officer Morten Ericksen is confident that the firm will overtake the fourth-ranked service provider within the next couple of weeks.

INDONESIA

Bakrie intends to acquire 15 percent stake in Indosat

Indonesia-based Bakrie group is planning to acquire a 10 percent-15 percent holding in PT Indosat, which is the second-biggest mobile operator in the country. Sources have said that the group's plan is only in the nascent stage. In June, Qatar Telecom had raised its stake in PT Indosat to 40.8 percent, stating that it would acquire the remaining shares at $0.80 per share, which is equivalent to $2.6 billion in all. Earlier in June, Singapore Technology Telemedia had sold 30.8 percent holding in Indosat to Qatar Telecom for $1.35 billion. Industry analysts believe that Bakrie's plan, if successful, marks beginning of consolidation in the telecommunications industry. The Bakrie group is looking to expand its business in Indonesia, one of the fastest-growing telecom markets in Asia.

JAPAN

NTT carriers' new service to allow mobile users to make calls via an optical fiber network

The two carriers of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) will soon launch a service enabling NTT DoCoMo's mobile-phone subscribers to make calls via NTT's landline optical fiber service. This service will allow DoCoMo subscribers to use their mobile phones as cordless phones, which are connected to their residential landline service. Users will now be able to call landline phones anywhere in Japan for 8.4 yen ($0.0795) for three minutes. NTT East and NTT West's new service will be offered to households subscribing to the Hikari Denwa IP Telephony and B Flet fiber-optic network. The service will initially be available to only for NEC Corp's soon-to-be launched mobile phone.

Japan's DoCoMo acquires 30 percent of Aktel for $50 million

Japanese mobile service provider NTT DoCoMo announced that it has decided to acquire a 30 percent holding in TM International Bangladesh, which provides telecom services under the brand "Aktel." The Japan-based mobile operator will buy all shares of the Bangladeshi company owned by A.K. Khan for around $350 million. DoCoMo had recently made investments in Malaysia-based U-Mobile, also expressing interest for the Philippines-based PLDT. This deal is likely to be closed by this year's end.

Fujitsu introduces Interstage Business Process Manager Version 10

Fujitsu Limited announced the worldwide release of Interstage Business Process Manager Version 10, the latest release of its business process management software. As a result of customer feedback on the popular BPM solution — which has seen 50 percent year-over-year revenue increases for three consecutive years — the new Interstage Business Process Manager release delivers several enhancements, including improved business process simulation, analysis, and monitoring capabilities; advanced Rapid Application Development tools that enable

customers to bring products and services to market faster; and multitenancy options to reduce a customer's total cost of ownership (TCO) for its business systems.

Suo Cable Net taps Alcatel-Lucent for Japanese GPON

Suo Cable Net, a Japanese cable TV operator, has selected Alcatel-Lucent to design, integrate, and deploy a GPON. The new network, which will enable Suo Cable Net to begin rolling out high-speed Internet and video services in July, will be the first commercial GPON deployment in Japan, the systems house says.

With more than 10 million FTTH subscribers, Japan is one of the most advanced countries in terms of high-speed broadband coverage. While most initial deployments used BPON technology, GE-PON has been the technology of choice for the most recent generation of deployments. GPON supports downstream capacities of up to 2.5Gbps, more than twice the 1Gbps downstream bit rate standard GE-PON provides.

"With Alcatel-Lucent's industry-leading GPON solution, we will be able to offer our customers broadband capacities that support the delivery of high-definition TV and high-speed Internet services," said Tetsuaki Kanai, vice president of Suo Cable Net. Suo Cable Net provides cable TV services in Yanai City.

Alcatel-Lucent will deploy its 7342 Intelligent Services Access Manager Fiber-to-the-User (ISAM FTTU) equipment, a product line complemented by a wide range of optical network terminals (ONTs) that support FTTH, fiber-to-the-building (FTTB), and mobile backhaul.

"We are very excited to be part of the first-ever commercial deployment of GPON technology in Japan," said Frederic Rose, president of Alcatel-Lucent's activities in Europe, Africa, and Asia. "FTTH architectures are clearly the end-game of any planned or ongoing access network transformation. GPON stands out as the optimal and most cost-effective FTTH technology option — thanks to its stability, scalability, flexible management and operations, as well as its guaranteed evolutionary path. GPON will allow Japanese end users to truly experience the power of next-generation triple-play services."

Fujitsu Microelectronics launches mobile WiMAX chipsets for mobile devices

Fujitsu Microelectronics Limited announced a new mobile WiMAX chipset optimized for mobile WiMAX devices such as smartphones and PDAs. Sample shipment will start in August 2008. The chipset includes a baseband LSI, the MB86K22; an RF LSI, the MB86K52; and a power management LSI, the MB39C316. The three devices are essential elements for competitive WiMAX modules. The chipset was designed so that the size of the WiMAX module will be 12x12mm. The standby current — which has a direct impact on battery life — will not exceed 0.5mA, facilitating the development of attractive mobile WiMAX terminals. Next-generation mobile WiMAX technology will be deployed in the United States, Europe, and Taiwan this year, and in Japan next year. The initial service will be through PC-based mobile broadband access, with simultaneous development of handsets, smartphones, PDAs, portable games, and navigation systems.

NEC selects Genband as its Femtocell system partner

Genband and NEC have stated that the latter has decided to integrate the G9 Converged Media Gateway of Genband into its Femtocell Solution architecture. A low-power consumer device, a femtocell is able to locally provide 3G (third-generation) capacity and coverage. It uses the customer's broadband connection for linking to the cellular operator's network. Femtocells enable operators to cost-effectively boost 3G coverage in office buildings, homes, and other

premises. This alleviates network congestion, boosts service quality, and increases customer retention. NEC and Genband believe that users will benefit from new services and tariffs.

Fujitsu develops millimeter-band transmitter capable of data transmission speeds exceeding 10Gbps

Fujitsu Laboratories Ltd. and Fujitsu Limited announced, as a world's first, the development of a transmitter operating in the 70-100GHz band using impulse radio that is capable of transmitting data at speeds of more than 10 Gigabits per second. This new development eliminates the need for oscillators and other hardware that had been required for use of earlier millimeter-band transmitters, thus enabling a smaller millimeter-band transmitter. As a substitute for fiber-optic high-speed lines, the new transmitter could be used in wide range of applications geared to help bridge the digital divide, including for platform networks and short-range wireless LANs. This research was carried out as part of the Research and Development Project for Expansion of Radio Spectrum Resources, sponsored by Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

StarHub signs MoU with DoCoMo's to pilot Osaifu-Keitai-based mobile wallet service

Singapore-based telecom operator StarHub is planning to unveil a mobile wallet powered by NTT DoCoMo's Osaifu-Keitai system. StarHub has inked an MoU with Japanese firm NTT DoCoMo for exploring the possibility of launching the Osaifu-Keitai- based mobile wallet in Singapore, which is the first country apart from Japan to start an official study of this service. NTT DoCoMo had unveiled Osaifu-Keitai ("mobile wallet" in Japanese) in July 2004. This service makes use of contactless technology for enabling mobile payment/transaction services. StarHub had carried out an NFC trial with EZ-Link involving 1,000 participants, which could use NFC phones

to pay for public transport and other services. Being a contactless chip, the EZ-Link purse can transact payments at more than 20,000 readers/terminals on the nation's public transport network, as well as retail locations like McDonald's restaurants.

Fujitsu's sales of WiMAX chips likely to reach $1 billion by 2011

According to a Reuters report, Fujitsu is likely to increase its sale of WiMAX-based chips to $1 billion by the financial year starting on April 2011. According to Makoto Awaga, general manager of Fujitsu's microchip division, the company's power-saving chips will account for a significant portion of the sale of its WiMAX chips. This target of 100 billion yen accounts for 2 percent of its revenues of $500 billion in the year ending on March 2008 Taiwanese operators are gearing up to launch WiMAX services in the country this year. Meanwhile, in Japan, a KDDI-led group will initiate WiMAX services next year. Mr. Awaga opined that the global WiMAX user base is likely to touch 50 million by 2012. WiMAX is likely to find widespread acceptance in Japan, the US, BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China), Asia, and Europe.

NTT grabs 32 percent of the IP telephony market in Japan

Japan-based Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp (NTT)-owned NTT West and NTT East regional divisions had grabbed 32.2 percent share of the local Internet Protocol (IP) telephony market by the end of March 2008, thus becoming the largest player in this market. This is the first time that the state-run company's VoIP share has gone past 30 percent. According to the latest government data, the company's market share in the local IP telephony segment has risen 10.3 percent year-over-year. NTT is followed by Softbank BB Corp, which has a market share of 25.8 percent. NTT plans to provide VoIP in conjunction with its optical fiber

broadband service, which contributes 72.2 percent to the country's fiber-optic market.

Japan's IIJ announces release of IIJ FiberAccess/A Service

Japan-based Internet and network solutions provider Internet Initiative Japan Inc. (IIJ) has released the IIJ FiberAccess/A Service for optical fiber lines delivered by ACCA Networks Co. Ltd. IIJ FiberAccess/A Service would use the optical fiber lines of ACCA to provide top-quality Internet access, enabling transmission speeds of 10Mbps. IIJ has already been delivering Internet access via fiber-optic lines to its corporate users through the IIJ FiberAccess/F Service. However, the launch of the IIJ FiberAccess/A Service will allow the company to provide a better suite of broadband Internet services to its corporate customers. IIJ will be able to establish multicarrier network redundancy by combining the IIJ FiberAccess/ F Service with its IIJ FiberAccess/A Service, which is IPv6 compatible. This means that the service will be very useful for customers having broadband networks.

MRV completes deployment of a Fiber Driver MSP for Japan's Softbank

Telecommunications player MRV Communications has successfully deployed a Fiber Driver optical MSP (multiservice platform) for Japanese telecom service provider Softbank Telecom for its countrywide ATM access network in the country. MRV Communications completed the deployment via bidirectional single-fiber capability. This enables the telecom operator to reduce its operational costs and general fiber requirements.

NEC, Tyco commence build-out of the Unity Cable System

NEC and telecommunication operator Tyco Telecommunications have started the build-out of the trans-Pacific undersea fiber-optic cable system called Unity Cable System, which would connect the US (Los Angeles) to Japan (Chikura). The deal for this high-profile project was inked on February 23, 2008, between suppliers NEC and Tyco Telecommunications and the Unity Consortium, which comprises six firms — Global Transit, Bharti Airtel, Google, Pacnet, KDDI, and SingTel. The Unity Cable System contains a multifiber pair system, and each fiber pair can carry data of 960 Gigabits per second. Tyco Telecommunications would roll out the submarine cable from the US, while NEC will undertake the installation from Japan. This Cable System would address the ever-growing demand for connectivity between the two countries.

Nokia to unveil WLAN service in Japan

Nokia said that it is planning to unveil a wireless LAN service in Japan this summer. This move reflects Nokia's intention to improve its position in a market dominated by local handset makers. According to a Reuters report, Nokia will initially offer WLAN services to Nokia users through Japan's third-biggest mobile operator, Softbank Mobile. Customers of Softbank subscribing to the bolt-on service would need to pay another $7.78 per month. Currently, Nokia's market share in Japan is less than 1 percent.

NTT Plala picks A10

A10 Networks announced that its AX Series next-generation server load balancers have been selected as the video distribution platform for "Hikari-TV," a video-to-television distribution service provided by NTT Plala Inc. Consolidating "OCN Theater," "OnDemand TV," and "4th MEDIA," which were previously operated by the NTT group as its three main video distribution service brands for TV, NTT Plala's Hikari-TV provides services to deliver various video content for home TV. Hikari-TV's services include those for video-on-demand and multichannel broadcasting via NTT East and West's "B FLET'S," NGN commercial service

"FLET'S Hikari Next," and NTT West's "FLET'S Hikari Premium."

The AX Series was selected as a server load balancer (SLB) solution for Hikari-TV, which is one of the core services of NGN operated by the NTT group, because the AX Series meets the IPv6 and high-performance requirements for accommodating anticipated growth in the number of users. The AX Series recently won the Grand Prix/Best of Interop Tokyo 2008 award as Best Carrier/Internet Service Provider (ISP) solution for its comprehensive IPv6 solution and high-performance IPv6 server load balancing capabilities.

"After a comparative test with competitive server load balancer products, we selected A10's AX Series for its advanced architecture, stable and superior IPv6 performance, outstanding cost-effectiveness, and prompt support from A10 and partner Bussan Networks," said Mr. Shinro Nakagawa, general manager of the network engineering department for NTT Plala. "We chose A10's AX Series as the high-performance server load balancer platform for 'Hikari-TV' since the video distribution service is expected to grow as a future core business of NTT Plala and its killer application running on NGN ('FLET'S Hikari Next') of NTT East and West."

Japan-Russia cable lit

TransTeleCom Company CJSC (TTK), a Russian telecommunications backbone operator, and NTT Communications Corporation (NTT Com) announced that the Hokkaido-Sakhalin Cable System (HSCS) — which directly links the two companies' telecom networks via an undersea cable between Nevelsk, Sakhalin, in Russia and Ishikari, Hokkaido, Japan — began commercial operation on July 3.

The two companies jointly started to construct the fiber-optic submarine cable HSCS in 2007, and the work was completed in December 2007. HSCS measures 570km in length and has a capacity of 640Gbps. Its startup gives NTT Com the shortest route between Japan and Europe, compared with existing cable routes through southern Asia and the United States, by connecting the cable to the TTK's extensive backbone network in Russia, which exceeds 55,000km.

The HSCS route will enable NTT Com to provide the following high-reliability, high-quality services:

-   Global Leased Line — NTT Com will provide additional offering in Arcstar Global Leased Line Service using the new route and taking orders starting now. It is estimated to shorten the latency within the company's backbone by 20 percent to 30 percent compared to the existing routes.

-   Global IP-VPNs — The HSCS route will be added to the backbone of NTT Com's secure, scalable Arcstar Global IP-VPN Service (MPLS) beginning August 2008.

-   Transit Service — The HSCS route will be added to NTT Com's global IP Tier 1 network covering Asia-Pacific Europe and North America, with connection to major ISPs worldwide, beginning now.

Sony, NTT, and several others decide agree upon unifying technical standards for IPTV services

Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT), Sony Corp., and several other companies said that they have decided to unify technical-based standards for Internet Protocol television (IPTV) services. A forum formed by three telecommunications companies — KDDI Corp., NTT and Softbank BB Corp. — would lead this standardization process. Around 15 organizations and business, in addition to two individuals, have joined this forum. The members include the likes of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co, Sony, Toshiba Corp., Hitachi Ltd., and Sharp Corp. and also five commercial television broadcasters in Tokyo and Japan Broadcasting Corp.

NTT East aims to increase its fiber-optic user base to 10 million

According to Jiji Press reports, the president of Japanese telecom operator Nippon Telegraph & Telephone East Corp. (NTT East), Tsutomu Ebe, has said that the company is putting a lot of effort into increasing the subscriber base of its fiber-optic broadband services to 10 million.

Mr. Ebe said in a press conference that the company aims to sign up 11.40 million fiber-optic subscribers by March 2011, an increase of 5.27 million from the previous month's end. NTT East and NTT West are aspiring to have a combined user base of 20 million by March 31, 2011.

KOREA

POSDATA to provide mobile WiMAX equipment to Super-iMAX

South Korea-based telecom IT player POSDATA said that it has been selected by Uzbekistan-based telecom operator Super iMAX for providing mobile WiMAX equipment. In October 2007, another Korean company, KT Corporation, had bought Super-iMAX, which currently owns concessions to provide broadband and wireless Internet services in the 2.3GHz spectrum band. The Uzbek company is planning to commence services by September 2008 in the capital city of Tashkent and will expand the services to other parts of the country in the latter stages. This deal entails the provision by POSDATA of network management systems, mobile WiMAX base stations, and end-user terminals.

Virgin Mobile USA plans to buy SK Telecom-controlled Helio

According to the Financial Times, Virgin Mobile USA said that it intends to buy the US-based cell-phone joint venture Helio, which is backed by South Korea-based operator SK Telecom. Both parties want to combine their sluggish operations to become a potent force in a maturing market. According to a source close to the matter, an announcement of this development is likely to be made this month. Via this agreement, Virgin Mobile USA, which was formed in 2002 and listed in the New York Stock Exchange in October 2007, will be able to buy Helio. In return, the company would be issuing new shares, which will enable SK Telecom to win a 20 percent stake in the enlarged business, worth around $50 million. SK Telecom has also expressed its willingness to invest some amount in Virgin Mobile USA, which has 5.1 million users. US-based ISP Earthlink is the minority stakeholder in Helio.

MALAYSIA

JARING, Celcom launch Malaysia's first mobile Internet service

Malaysian Internet services provider (ISP) JARING Communications has unveiled the country's first cellular Internet service along with mobile operator Celcom. This will allow the customers of both firms to exchange direct calls. Telephony Service over Internet Protocol enables users to make calls from a TSoIP phone, computer, or even a traditional phone linked to a broadband phone adapter. JARING chief executive, Dr. Mohamed bin Awang Lah, said that the firm has successfully tested the mobile Internet service, thereby paving the way for a commercial launch.

He spoke highly about this new service, which enabled users to remain connected through a PC or a mobile phone. Users of the JARING MY015 services are provided with a phone line along with a phone number having a prefix of 0154. Malaysians would be able to use the JARING MY105 service via several devices, including soft phones on PCs and notebooks, cell-phones, and physical IP phones. The allocation of the 0154 81X XXXX numbering block will enable JARING to serve around 100,000 users.

NEW ZEALAND

Vodafone New Zealand to spend $50 million to launch fixed-line services

According to a Reuters report, the New Zealand unit of UK-based telecommunications giant Vodafone Group plans to spend NZ$50 million ($38.3 million) for launching fixed-line services for around 25 percent of the country's population. The rival of New Zealand Telecom said that it plans to cash in on the recent government changes, which have compelled Telecom to share its network with its competitors. Vodafone plans to deploy its equipment into Telecom's exchanges, which will enable it to launch Internet and phone services via Telecom's copper-line phone network. Vodafone plans to launch landline services in the entire Auckland region, which has a population of nearly 1 million. The government has also forced Telecom to divide its three divisions in order to launch affordable broadband in the country.

Kingston Park to become the first housing community project in New Zealand to get next-generation broadband and phone service

New Zealand-based firms Telecom Wholesale and WorldxChange Communications are participating in a joint project to provide next-generation broadband and phone services on fiber-optic cable linked to households in a housing community project, Kensington Park, located in Orewa, north of Auckland. Kensington Park would thus become the first housing development project in the nation to access this service. The service would subsequently be expanded into an additional 13 developments and 3,500 homes across New Zealand where the deployment of fiber-optic cable takes place over the next one year. This project forms a significant part of Telecom's $1.4 billion investment plan towards the development of next-generation broadband technology.

Telecom Wholesale chief executive Matt Crockett said that the advanced broadband services will enable its users to access several applications like video calling, HD (high-definition) calling, IPTV, and video-on-demand, among others. Telecom will test two variants of broadband-on-fiber, which would be delivering a voice-only service or broadband capable of supporting download speeds of 30Mbps.

Telecom holds a live test of its W-CDMA network

Telecom New Zealand has held the first "live test" of the new W-CDMA (wireless code-division multiple access) network, which will be launched in November 2008. Telecom chief executive Paul Reynolds and an Auckland-based student, Michael Moa, made the first live call of the W-CDMA network, which would initially provide third-generation services supporting mobile broadband in Christchurch, Wellington, and Auckland.

This network would be expanded with the passage of time. The company's contented dependence on its old CDMA network has led to heavy revenue losses.

PAKISTAN

PTCL to launch IPTV in Pakistan

Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) is preparing to launch its Internet Protocol television (IPTV) services in the country. Dr. Sadiq Al-Jadir, commercial SEVP, said that the telecom operator would provide this service using advanced technologies. IPTV is a multichannel TV service that is brought to users' homes through the Internet Protocol. This new service by PTCL will enable its customers to get many digital-quality television channels as well as voice telephony and high-speed broadband over a single connection. PTCL is currently the biggest converged services provider in Pakistan. It provides telecom services like data and basic voice telephony,

Internet, and videoconferencing, among others, to residential as well as business customers.

Pakistani government to come up with consolidated telecommunications policy

The Pakistani government is planning to develop a consolidated telecom policy by early 2009. Speaking at the Telecom Summit 2008, Noorud Din Baqai, member, Telecom, Ministry of Information Technology, stated that the policies of landline and mobile phone segments are set to expire in 2008, while the third policy pertaining to broadband will expire in 2009. The Pakistani government plans to come up with one consolidated policy in the nation.

The president and chief executive officer of PTCL, Walid Irshaid, reiterated the company's commitment towards the advancement of the country's information and communication technology (ICT) sector.

SINGAPORE

SingTel holding discussions with Chinese telecom operators

Singapore Telecommunications Ltd. has announced that it is holding talks with various Chinese operators for making investments in the Chinese market. SingTel CEO Chua Sock Koong said that the firm has been eying China for a fairly long time, adding that the company is having discussions with several Chinese operators. Earlier, media reports had speculated that SingTel was planning to make an investment in landline player China Telecom Corp. However, no formal announcement has been made to date. These reports came after China Telecom said that it was contemplating reducing its stake to a foreign investor as part of the much-awaited telecom restructuring. SingTel has also been actively participating in the failed takeover discussions between India's Bharti Airtel and South African telecom firm MTN Group Limited.

SingTel gears up for the launch of Globalstar satellite services

Globalstar has entered into an agreement with Singapore-based SingTel to start the operations of a new gateway at the Singaporean operator's Seletar Satellite earth station facility ahead of its launch of Globstar satellite services later on this year.

Globalstar had recently rolled out a simple data appliqué in the country, which will help to provide Globalstar satellite services across Malaysia, Singapore, and various parts of Indonesia.

By September, SingTel will provide Globalstar Simplex data solutions for various purposes, including supply chain management, logistics, and government/maritime asset tracking applications, as well as messaging products usch as the SPOT Satellite Messenger. SingTel is planning to provide Globalstar's family of next-generation satellite data/voice solutions after launching the second-generation constellation in the latter part of next year.

SingTel to spend $104 million to increase its stake in Globe Telecom

Singapore Telecommunications Ltd. (SingTel) announced that it has decided to increase its stake in Philippines-based Globe Telecom Inc. to 47.34 percent from the current 44.47 percent by spending $104 million.

SingTel announced that its affiliate, Singapore Telecom International Pte. Ltd., will acquire 3.8 million common shares of Globe Telecom from Ayala Corp. at around $27 per share.

SRI LANKA

Lanka Bell to invest $27.81 million to link Sri Lanka to FLAG fiber-optic cable system

Lanka Bell is planning to invest around Rs 3 billion for connecting Sri Lanka to the biggest underwater optical fiber cable system in the world, thus catalyzing the launch of high-

speed broadband access in the country. This investment would enable the CDMA service provider to become an enterprise solution provider. Lanka Bell's managing director, Prasad Samarasinghe, said that the county's connection to the Falcon section of the FLAG undersea fiber-optic cable has gone live.

With this development, Sri Lanka has now accessed its second global cable network, which would lead to the expansion of high-speed Internet services and trigger significant growth opportunities in data and voice segments.

Lanka Bell has partnered with India-based Reliance Globalcom for expanding the Falcon segment from Trivandrum (India) to Colombo.

Mr. Samarasinghe said that 1.2-Terabit cable, which incurred an expenditure of $27 million, would allow the company and other telecom firms to provide robust business solutions to the corporate segment. Lanka Bell would be linked to the 65,000km FLAG network across five continents. The global FLAG network consists of 66 landing stations in over 50 nations.

TAIWAN

Chunghwa Telecom renews four-year maintenance services contract with Alcatel-Lucent

Alcatel-Lucent announced the renewal of a major maintenance contract for a second four-year term with Chunghwa Telecom, the largest telecommunications service provider in Taiwan, to provide maintenance services on its network system.

Alcatel said that this project reinforces its strategic partnership with Chunghwa Telecom and further demonstrates Alcatel-Lucent's leadership in providing quality services and its commitment to service providers around the world.

Alcatel-Lucent will provide its maintenance services on the Alcatel-Lucent 5ESS and S12 switches that make up Chunghwa Telecom's time-division multiplexing (TDM) network, which serves some 12 million subscriber lines.

The full suite of service support includes technical support, and troubleshooting, as well as repairs and return services. This maintenance contract will help Chunghwa Telecom better manage and maintain its 14 million ports in more than 700 switches distributed across the island.

These switches have been in operation at Chunghwa Telecom's network for more than a decade, and this contract further illustrates the quality and reliability of Alcatel-Lucent's solution.

Chunghwa Telecom acquires equipment from Nokia Siemens

Taiwanese telecommunications service provider Chunghwa Telecom Co. Ltd. said that it has acquired equipment worth 3.47 bln twd ($114.19 million) from telecom network maker Nokia Siemens Networks. Chunghwa Telecom, the biggest telecom operator of Taiwan, has said that this equipment will enable it to expand its 3G (third-generation) mobile network.

Taiwan's First International to launch WiMAX in August

Taiwan-based First International Telecom Corp., which owns a WiMAX license, is planning to launch WiMAX services service in August 2008 and is eyeing 40,000 users by next June. The company has already placed orders with the likes of D-Link Corp., Quanta Computer Inc., and Asustek Computer Inc. for USB dongles and WiMAX notebook PCs. First International plans to conduct a free trial of this service in August and to cover 70 percent of Taipei city by using 88 base stations.

Its WiMAX-enabled USB dongles will initially cost $161.19 per unit. The firm has initially placed orders of 5,000 units of USB dongles with three suppliers. First International

will soon increase the number of orders and subsequently launch WiMAX phones by the end of 2009. WiMAX is capable of supporting download speeds of 7Mbps on a car traveling at 20-30km/hr, and 3Mbps at 80km/hr.

Alcatel-Lucent cooperates with Tatung to roll out WiMAX in Taiwan

French telecom equipment vendor Alcatel-Lucent has announced its plans to join hands with Tatung Co. for rolling out a commercial WiMAX 802.16e-2005 (Revision-e) network in Penghu County, Taiwan. The new WiMAX network will enable users to access a diverse range of high-speed broadband wireless services.

Under this deal, Alcatel-Lucent would be providing Tatung with WiMAX infrastructure solutions, which include a WiMAX 802.16e-2005 radio network as well as core network components.

The vendor would also be responsible for providing maintenance, installation, and project management expertise. Penghu County will become one of the first places in Taiwan to get WiMAX.

Chunghwa planning to enter Cambodia

Taiwanese telecom firm Chunghwa Telecom is planning to commence its services in Cambodia, according to a Reuters report. This is in line with the company's plans to make overseas expansions.

Chunghwa Telecom is planning to join hands with Vietnam's military-owned Viettel, with which it had established a joint venture worth $30 million in May.

The company, which refused to provide any financial details of its plans, said that it has made investments in Thailand and Vietnam. It is planning to make investments in every Southeast Asian nation except Myanmar.

Viettel is the biggest telecom operator of Vietnam, grabbing a market share of nearly 33 percent of the mobile segment.

It became the first telecom operator of Vietnam to make overseas investments by commencing voice-over-Internet Protocol (VoIP) services in Cambodia. Viettel currently competes with MobiFone and Vinaphone.

THAILAND

Alcatel-Lucent to conduct WiMAX trial with Thailand's True Corporation

Alcatel-Lucent announced plans to conduct a trial of wireless broadband services using WiMAX Rev-e technology with True, Thailand's only fully integrated telecommunications provider.

For the trial, Alcatel-Lucent will provide True Corporation with a comprehensive WiMAX solution that operates in the 2.5GHz frequency band, including base stations, wireless access controller, operation, and maintenance center, customer premises equipment (CPE) — including WiMAX CPE and wireless cards for laptop computers — to deliver Internet broadband access when on the move.

Alcatel-Lucent will also provide its WiMAX engineering expertise and integration services for the trial, which will take place in Phatumthanee province on the outskirts of Bangkok.

This trial has also been designed to test several applications that improve the overall welfare of the community by taking advantage of advances in telecommunications technology.

"Alcatel-Lucent is a clear leader in the market in WiMAX with 25 commercial contracts and more than 70 trials around the world," said Mr. Vincent Duda, managing director of Alcatel-Lucent's activities in Thailand.

"This leadership position gives us a unique ability to address the broadest set of customer requirements and the most extensive field experience to draw from.

Being chosen by True for this important test is yet another testament to our growing reputation in this important market sector and

an important statement about our role as a leading supplier for this customer."

DTAC goes green with network upgrade

DTAC, one of Thailand's leading telecoms service providers, has taken huge steps towards building a highly efficient and environmentally sustainable mobile network, as it received the first of 1,500 Flexi EDGE base stations from Nokia Siemens Networks.

The rollout is a further endorsement of Nokia Siemens Networks' position of leadership in environmentally friendly network solutions. Its solutions can generate energy savings of up to 70 percent while maintaining DTAC's advantage in delivering high data rates to its customers. Nokia Siemens Networks' Flexi Base Station technology enables operators to minimize the number of base station sites and the need for air conditioning at the sites.

Moreover, the solution allows operators to deploy software features to optimize the use of radio access for wireless communications. All these benefits result in not only a more environmentally friendly network operation, but also lower operating and capital costs for operators.

VIETNAM

EVN Telecom to invest $30 million on an intra-Asia submarine optical cable system

Vietnamese telecom service provider EVN Telecom said that it is planning to spend about $30 million for linking the country to an intra-Asia undersea optical cable system. According to Vietnam News Agency, the entire project would incur an expenditure of around $200 million, with the initial capacity being 320Gbps. This optical cable system would link Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Vietnam, and some parts of the US. This project is being led by Tata Communications Group.

Vietnam's mobile subscriber gets closer to 50 million mark

The number of mobile users who have subscribed to Vietnam's four cellular service providers has exceeded 48 million and is likely to each 50 million soon, according to the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC). Around 90 percent of the total subscribers are prepaid users. The biggest mobile operator in terms of subscribers is Viettel (19.42 million subscribers). MobiFone comes next with 13.4 million users, while VinaPhone and S-Fone have 12.1 million, and 3.14 million mobile users, respectively.

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