

RUSSIAN TELECOM

N E W S L E T T E R

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INTERNET

KDDI, Rostelecom deploy 900km fiber-optic cable between Japan and Russia

According to the NHK channel, Japan-based KDDI and Russia's Rostelecom have deployed an optical fiber cable across the East Sea (Sea of Japan). The two firms laid down two 900km lines between the city of Joetsu in Japan and the Russia-based city of Nakhodka. The cables would be bale to transmit data at 640 Gigabits per second (Gbps). The channel stated that the commercial operations on this telecommunications line are likely to start by September. On June 3, another submarine optical fiber cable was unveiled between Nevelsk and Ishikari, Hokkaido. This formed a part of the project undertaken by TransTelecom and NTT Communications.

WIRELESS

Russia's MegaFon to sell iPhones

MegaFon, Russia's third-largest mobile phone company, said it will start selling Apple's iPhone 3G in Russia later this year. MegaFon did not provide further details of the deal.

IPhones have not gone on sale officially in Russia, but are readily available on the gray market, selling for around

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US\$1,000, several times the current retail price in the United States.

Many Russians get them for considerably less by asking friends to buy them while on trips abroad, then paying another US\$100 to unlock the phones so that they can use them in Russia.

With an estimated 500,000 earlier-generation devices already in use, Russia is one of the biggest markets for iPhones outside the United States.

The announcement was made just days after Vimpelcom said it had reached an agreement with Apple on selling the phone in Russia. MTS is the only one of the "big three" Russian operators not to formally announce a deal with Apple.

Analysts said Russian operators could find it difficult initially to woo buyers, who could be put off by being able to use the iPhone on only one network.

"Typically Russian operators are not strong handset sellers, and users prefer to buy handsets separately from their mobile contracts," said Konstantin Belov, a telecoms analyst at UralSib. "But the iPhone is very popular, and if mobile operators start subsidizing it, they will probably see strong demand."

The iPhone 3G, which went on sale in the United States on July 11, is designed to deliver snappier Web surfing and online video viewing than the year-old original model.

Russian consortium to build, place in orbit, and operate Angosat

The government of Angola has approved the project for developing an Angolan communications satellite, in addition to the clauses of the agreement to be entered into by the Russia-based consortium backed by Rosobon Export and the Ministry of Postal Services and Telecommunication.

Under the terms of the contract, the Russian consortium would undertake the

responsibility for constructing and operating the satellite, named Angosat, which would be used for supporting and expanding broadband Internet services.

Angosat will also provide transmission to telecom service providers and support TV and radio network services.

Vimpelcom switches on 3G

Russia's second-largest cellular operator by subscribers, Vimpelcom, has reportedly launched its first 3G services.

Networks have been switched on in the cities of St. Petersburg, Nizhny Novgorod, Samara, and Chelyabinsk, according to a report from Bloomberg, with around 40 cities expected to be covered by the end of this year.

Vimpelcom is one of three 3G licensees in Russia, alongside MTS and MegaFon. It recently signed a deal to distribute Apple's iPhone 3G handset in Russia.

Scartel and Samsung begin WiMAX trials

Russian wireless operator Scartel has launched trials of mobile WiMAX technology in Moscow and St. Petersburg in conjunction with South Korean equipment vendor Samsung.

The two companies plan to deploy up to 1,600 access points by early 2009, by which time the two city networks are expected to be ready to go live. The networks are using frequencies in the 2.5GHz-2.7GHz band and should cover an area that is home to around 20 million people.

Fon signs deal with Comstar to expand into Russia

Open Wi-Fi player Fon announced that it has inked a contract to expand into the Russian market by partnering with landline service provider Comstar.

This new deal would see Fon and Comstar jointly building a Wi-Fi Internet network

in Russia and the CIS. Comstar has stated that it is keen to set up 30,000 Wi-Fi access points in the capital city of Russia in 2008-09. The Fon network comprises nearly 230,000 Wi-Fi hotspots globally. Its investors include Coral/Sistema, British Telecom, Google, Index Ventures, Skype, Excite Japan, and Sequoia Capital. The social routing business plan of Fon has been modeled on "Linus, Aliens, and Bills." Under the plan, Linus users will allow Fon users to access the Web through their Wi-Fi connection in lieu of free Internet access on any Fon hotspot worldwide. Bills charge Fon users for accessing the Internet on their hotspot and share revenues with the open Wi-Fi maverick. Aliens are roaming users who pay for accessing Fon hotspots.

Enforta expands its footprint into 22 cities in Russia

Russian telecom player Enforta has stated that it plans to extend its WiMAX footprint by an additional 22 cities to increase the service territory to 55 cities in the country. These 22 cities include Bratsk, Kemerovo, Angarsk, Rubtsovsk, Biysk, Tolyatti, Krasnodar, Taganrog, Novocheerkassk, Novomoskovsk, Rybinsk, Orsk, Magnitogorsk, and Shakhty, among others. Victor Ratnikov, general director of Enforta, said that this marks the most extensive expansion drive initiated by the company. He said that Enforta's footprint will now reach cities having an aggregate population of more than 55 million. The company is also set to expand its operations in an additional 10 cities by the fourth quarter of 2008. Enforta's market share of 20 percent-22 percent of the market is the largest in Russia's WBA (wireless broadband access) segment.

Belarus boosts its Internet gateway capacity to 4.5Gbps

According to e-belarus.org, Belarus-based PTO Beltelecom has entered into an

agreement with Russian telecommunications operator Rostelecom for increasing the Internet gateway capacity to 4.5Gbps.

Beltelecom official Yuri Galiakovich said that the expansion of the Internet gateway capacity makes strategic sense, as this would enable the country to effectively meet the growing demand in the Internet segment.

TransTeleCom and NTT unveil HSCS cable system

Russia-based fixed telecom service provider TransTeleCom (TTK) and Japanese telecom biggie NTT Communications have unveiled the Hokkaido-Sakhalin cable system (HSCS) for linking the two firms' network through a submarine cable between Russia (Nevelsk, Sakhalin) and Japan (Ishikari, Hokkaido). TTK and NTT had commenced the installation of the optical fiber undersea cable HSCS in 2007 and subsequently completed the rollout in December 2007.

The cable system is 570km long and has a capacity of 640Gbps. It is the shortest possible route between Japan and Europe. The cable system links the cable to the Russian company's 55,000km-long backbone network in Russia. NTT is planning to use the new route to provide newer offerings pertaining to its global IP VPNs (virtual private networks) and Arcstar leased-line service.

The HSCS route will also be added to NTT's worldwide IP Tier 1 network to cover North America, Asia-Pacific, and Europe.

Media report disclose the reason for the delay in Poland's DVB-H tender

A local media report has said that protracted discussions with nearby nations are the reason for the much-talked-about delay in the Polish DVB-H tender, which is likely to be announced this month. The report stated that agreements pertaining to spectrum usage in the

470-790MHz band have finally been reached with Denmark, Germany, and Sweden. But the agreement with Russia has not yet been signed. The Office of Electronic Communications (UKE) said that it will issue frequencies only after a final agreement is reached. It believes that the DVB-H service would be launched by the end of 2008. It added that this service would cover 31 channels.

Sea Launch Consortium launches US-based EchoStar XI broadcast satellite

The EchoStar XI broadcast satellite has been successfully launched from the Sea Launch consortium's ocean bed platform in the Pacific Ocean.

The 12,150-pound telecom satellite atop the Zenit-3SL rocket, which is an advanced version of the Zenit-3SL, would play an instrumental role in expanding the capacity of the Dish Network in the US. Congratulating Space Systems/Loral and Dish Network on the successful launch, Kjell Karlsen, president and general manager of Sea Launch, said that the company is happy to play its part in the success enjoyed by Dish Network.

The owners of the Sea Launch consortium include Norway's Kvaerner ASA, Boeing, Ukraine's Yuzhnoye design bureau/ Yuzhmash production association, and Russia-based RSC-Energia. The consortium has facilitated 28 commercial launches for several firms, including DirecTV, EchoStar, XM Satellite Radio, and PanAmSat.

Disaster for mobile sector as military refuses to hand over 3G spectrum

Ukrainian telecoms regulator the National Commission on Communications Regulation (NCCR) has revealed that it has received a letter from the Ministry of Defence stating that the conversion of 2GHz band radio frequencies to civilian 3G mobile usage is currently

"undesirable." The military plans to continue using the frequencies for the purpose of implementing communications compatible with NATO standards.

It had been anticipated that the armed forces would allow the NCCR to reallocate three 30MHz blocks of 2GHz spectrum in a UMTS license auction for private mobile operators by the end of this year. State-owned Ukrtelecom remains the only UMTS licensee in Ukraine, where it offers commercial W-CDMA-based services under the Utel brand.

Platforma HD, Russia's new HDTV platform, selects Eutelsat's EUROBIRD 9 satellite

Platforma HD, the new Russian all-HDTV platform, has selected the EUROBIRD 9 satellite operated by Eutelsat Communications to deliver new HD content across western parts of Russia to the Urals.

The new platform was launched in August in order to offer Platforma HD's first subscribers the Beijing Olympics in HD with the Eurosport HD channel.

Platforma HD has signed a contract with Eutelsat for a full transponder on EUROBIRD 9. This capacity is already broadcasting the new platform's initial offer of four HD channels which aggregate the international channels Eurosport HD and National Geographic HD, with two leading Russian HD channels: HD Life, which is produced by the Red Media production company, and Kinopokaz HD, a new channel produced by Pervy TVCH.

The platform is available to direct-to-home subscribers with 60-90cm antennas and is also distributed to cable operators in cities in western parts of Russia.

Platforma HD has selected DRE encryption for the system. Two types of decoder are already available: the HUMAX HDCI-2000 and General Satellite's HD-9000. Both boxes enable reception of channels broadcast in DVB-

S2, in standard-definition, and in HD. After a six-month free trial period, subscribers will pay a monthly fee of 300 roubles (7 euros).

Platforma HD's choice of EURO BIRD 9 also gives subscribers the possibility of receiving other free-to-air channels broadcast from Eutelsat's newest video neighborhood, including Melody Zen and Luxe TV, which both broadcast free-to-air in HD.

With the addition of an off-the-shelf dual-feed LNB, homes can also choose to receive the 500 international digital channels broadcast free-to-air from Eutelsat's HOT BIRD neighborhood.

Commenting on the launch of the new platform, Konstantin Yashin, chairman of Platforma HD, declared, "With the launch of Russia's first all-HDTV platform our ambition is to respond to the enthusiasm of Russian consumers to have the best TV viewing experience.

Our objective is to attract 200,000 subscribers in the first two years of operation. To win subscriber loyalty, Platform HD is committed to continuing to strengthen its HD offer with more international and Russian HD content."

Olivier Millies-Lacroix, Eutelsat's commercial director, added, "The launch of Platforma HD takes to 55 the number of HD channels broadcast on our fleet. It is a new illustration of the dynamic of the digital broadcasting market in Russia which is experiencing buoyant take-up of Standard Digital channels and now new HDTV content."

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

Comstar buys prospective IPTV operator

Russia-based fixed-line service provider Comstar-UTS announced that it has acquired LLG Strategy, the sole owner of the alternative telecommunications operator Ural Telephone

Company (UTC), for around \$42.99 million in cash. UTC is currently the biggest alternative fixed-line service provider in the Sverdlovsk and Ekaterinburg regions of the country.

The telecom operator also owns an 800 kilometers optical fiber network and is contemplating launching IPTV (Internet Protocol television) services.

BUSINESS

Vimpelcom finalizes its mobile JV with Vietnamese state-run firms

A Reuters report stated that Vimpelcom, the second-biggest mobile-phone operator in Russia, has sealed its mobile joint venture with Vietnam-based state firms.

The JV is being seen as a platform through which Vimpelcom would implement its expansion plans for Asia. The Russian operator has apparently bought a 40 percent take in the JV, named GTEL-Mobile, by investing around \$267 million. Vietnamese firm Global Telecommunications Corporation and its GTEL TSC division own 51 percent and 9 percent, respectively, in the GTEL-Mobile venture. Vimplecom also plans to buy an additional 9 percent stake in the venture from its Vietnamese partners.

The firm plans to invest around \$1.8 billion in GTEL-Mobile over the next five years and is aiming for 20 million subscribers, or a market share of 15 percent-20 percent.

Vimpelcom lines up US\$1 billion loan

Russia's second-largest cellular operator, Vimpelcom, is reportedly considering taking out a three-year US\$1 billion syndicated loan to be used for general corporate finances.

A report from Reuters quotes a source close to the company who says the loan will be made in mid-September. Earlier this year, Vimpelcom secured a US\$3.5 billion facility to

help finance its acquisition of fixed-line sister company Golden Telecom.

Enforta expands to 68 cities

The Russian WiMAX operator Enforta has announced its latest expansion, with plans to switch on new networks in 13 cities to take its total coverage to 68 cities.

The company will launch operations in the cities of Armavir, Artem, Birobidzhan, Vanino, Dzerzhinsk, Zlatoust, Miass, Novorossiysk, Novotroitsk, Sochi, Sterlitamak, Syzran, and Ulan-Ude during September.

“The WiMAX technology continues to perform well and we are pleased with the subscriber growth,” said Enforta’s president, Lee Sparkman.

“With this announcement, we conclude our geographic deployments for 2008. We are now finalising plans with our investors for an exciting 2009 that further leverages our first to market leadership in wireless broadband services,” he added.

Azimuth Systems chooses Creanord as its Scandinavian distributor

Azimuth Systems Inc., a provider of wireless broadband test equipment and channel emulators for Wi-Fi, WiMAX, LTE, and other advanced wireless technologies, announced that Creanord, a premier solutions provider for carriers and service providers throughout Northern Europe, has become its distributor for Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, the Baltics (Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania), and Russia. Through this partnership, Creanord will distribute Azimuth’s full range of hardware and software products for Wi-Fi, WiMAX, LTE, and 4G applications, including the ACE 400WB and ACE MX channel emulators for testing base station and mobile station/user equipment in a fading environment under automated real-world scenarios.

“As a region that is home to a host of leaders in the wireless and cellular communications industry, Scandinavia is a hotbed of activity for sophisticated and cutting-edge wireless technologies,” said Jorma Hämäläinen, president of Creanord.

“As a result of the highly developed local telecom market, there is a large opportunity for solutions that verify performance and interoperability. Azimuth’s testing portfolio allows us to help our customers efficiently and effectively address their emerging wireless technology testing needs, ensuring that they bring their new products to market quickly and cost-effectively.”

With offices in Helsinki and Stockholm, Creanord assists carriers and service providers in streamlining networks and business operations by providing a comprehensive solution for converging wireline and wireless networks.

Through its Creanord Verified program, the company offers a selection of system solutions ranging from network verification during predeployment and rollout to continuous network monitoring and assurance during operational use, offering visibility into the real-world performance of voice and data applications.

“The international market has become a key area of success for Azimuth, and the Nordic countries have historically been leaders in the creation and delivery of wireless technology,” said George Reed, vice president of marketing and product management of Azimuth Systems. “Because our products are integral to accelerating product design, performance validation and interoperability, we focused our attention on finding the right partner in Northern Europe to help manufacturers, service providers and test laboratories in the region apply Azimuth’s award-winning testing technologies. We found that partner in Creanord.”

Comstar UTS reports Q2 revenues up 18 percent

Comstar United TeleSystems, an integrated telecommunications operator in Russia and the CIS, reported consolidated revenues of US\$417.3 million for its fiscal second quarter ended June 30, 2008, up 18 percent year-on-year when excluding Federal Budget compensation payments received in Q2 2007. Comstar UTS said adjusted OIBDA for the period under review was US\$163.5 million with an OIBDA margin of 39.2 percent, while net income climbed 74 percent year-on-year to US\$29.9 million. Net cash flow from group operations were up 12 percent to US\$ 125.8 million, it said.

Comstar UTS was formed from the merger of three fixed line operators — ZAO Comstar, MTU-Inform, and Telmos — in May 2004, writes TeleGeography's GlobalComms database. At the end of 2005, Comstar UTS's main shareholder, AFK Sistema, reorganized its telephony assets, bringing another of its operators — Moscow City Telephone Network (MGTS) — under the Comstar umbrella. The operator said that at the end of June 2008, 51 percent of MGTS's residential subscribers were on an unlimited tariff plan.

At the same date, Comstar reported an 80 percent year-on-year increase in broadband subscribers in Moscow to 783,000, equivalent to a market share of 36 percent. In addition, Comstar UTS said it added a net 46,000 new broadband subscribers in the regions and reported a regional ARPU of US\$20.2 per month.

Commenting on the results, Sergey Pridantsev, president and CEO of Comstar UTS, said: "The first half of the year has seen significant further progress in a number of our key strategic focus areas — broadband, the regions, and group structure. We have already now moved into the second phase of our

broadband development strategy in Moscow after the significant market share gains that we have reported in recent quarters. Our objective is to drive up ARPU levels in the premium customer segment, whilst focusing on growing the subscriber base in the mass market segment... Our regional footprint and market position has been enhanced by the recent acquisitions of Interlink Group in the Central region in June and Ural Telephone Company in the Ural region in July."

Comstar has also started the integration of the regional operations of STREAM-TV Group, which provides cable TV and broadband Internet access services in 40 Russian cities with a combined population coverage of over 15 million people. STREAM-TV's network already passes more than 3.5 million homes, and the combination with Comstar's existing operations will make it the largest broadband operator in the Russian regions.

Center Telecom's net profit up 28.9 percent

Russian fixed line telco Center Telecom, part of the state-backed Svyazinvest group, has posted a 28.9 percent year-on-year increase in net income to RUB2.43 billion (US\$97 million) in the first six months of 2008, on revenues that increased by 3.84 percent to RUB16.94 billion, compared to RUB16.31 billion in the first half of 2007. Operating profit rose by 19.4 percent to RUB4.29 billion in the six months ended June 30, 2008, while EBITDA improved by 13.7 percent to RUB6.65 billion, compared to RUB5.85 billion in 1H 2007. Center's broadband Internet subscriber base increased by 43.9 percent in the period to 437,372 at the end of June.

Parent group Svyazinvest's net profit in 1H 2008 under Russian Accounting Standards (RAS) rose by 6.5 percent to RUB17.53 billion (US\$721.9 million), while revenues were up 3.9 percent at RUB123.70 billion.

Center Telecom is one of Svyazinvest's seven megaregional operators and is licensed to provide local, long-distance, and international telephony; data transfer; Internet; ISDN; and wireless access services. Covering the Central Federal District, it is Russia's second-largest wireline telco in terms of sales volume, and is owned by Svyazinvest (38.02 percent), other Russian companies (53.05 percent), foreign companies (0.61 percent), and individuals (8.32 percent).

COMPANY NEWS

Vimpelcom hikes its stake in KarTel

Russia-based telecom giant Vimpelcom has invested around \$561.8 million for hiking its stake in KaR-Tel, the second-biggest mobile service provider in Kazakhstan in terms of subscribers. Vimpelcom has increased its stake in KaR-Tel from 50 percent to 75 percent by acquiring the shares from Cyprus-based Crowell Investments, an affiliate of ATF Bank. Vimpelcom spokeswoman Yelena Prokhorova said that the company does have the option to acquire the remaining 2 percent stake. KaR-Tel had around 4.78 million subscribers (39 percent market share) by the end of March 2008.

Telenor would consider Vimpelcom sale

Telenor of Norway says it would consider selling its stake in Russian cellular operator Vimpelcom to bring an end to a long-running conflict with the cellco's other main shareholder, Alfa Group. The dispute between Telenor and Alfa centers on their interests in Ukraine, where they both own stakes in the largest mobile operator by subscribers, Kyivstar, and where Vimpelcom also has an operation.

"We have said that to solve the conflict we will not sell Kyivstar... but we might be flexible regarding our Vimpelcom stake. That is one of the many possible outcomes of this conflict,"

Telenor spokesman Dag Melgaard said. He added that there are no current plans to offload Telenor's stake in Vimpelcom, which amounts to just under 30 percent of voting shares. A court in Siberia recently found Telenor liable to pay US\$2.8 billion in damages for allegedly attempting to block Vimpelcom's entry into the Ukrainian cellular market. Telenor has vowed to appeal the decision. Vimpelcom is Russia's second-largest cellco by subscribers, with more than 42 million customers and a 25 percent market share at the end of March, according to TeleGeography's GlobalComms database.

Comstar builds the first mobile WiMAX Network in Armenia

Comstar — United TeleSystems JSC, which is the biggest integrated telecom service provider of Russia and the CIS, has constructed the first-ever wireless broadband (WiMAX) network in Armenia. The new WiMAX network comprises 24 base stations that are linked to each other through rented telecom channels and radio relay lines. Having a high data transmission capacity, the network allows for the provision of a diverse range of telecom services like digital telephony, data transmission, high-speed Internet, Internet Protocol virtual private networks (IP VPNs), and conference calling. The network equipment has been provided by Airspan Networks. Victor Koresh, vice president of regional development for Comstar, stated that the company now plans to develop voice services in Armenia.

Vimpelcom buys Cambodia's Sotelco for \$28 million

Russian telecom service provider Vimpelcom has decided to acquire 90 percent holding in Cambodia-based Sotelco from its biggest shareholder, Altimio. According to a Reuters report, Altimio had bought 90 percent of Sotelco in August 2007. Vimpelcom

announced that the deal was completed by purchasing 90 percent of Atlas Trade Limited, the parent firm of Sotelco, for \$28 million. The remaining 10 percent would remain with a Cambodian partner. Altimo currently owns a 44 percent stake in Vimpelcom, whereas Norway-based Telenor owns 29.9 percent.

MTS share buy back to ease route for acquisition

Russia's largest cellular operator by subscribers, Mobile TeleSystems (MTS), has announced it will purchase around 37.8 million shares at a cost of RUB11.1 billion (US\$451.2 million) from shareholders opposed to a takeover of smaller rival SMARTS. SMARTS offers services to just over four million subscribers in the Volga region and has been estimated to be worth up to US\$1.5 billion. MTS's share buyback should be completed by 10 September.

VimpelCom reports 2Q profit up 31 percent

VimpelCom, Russia's second-largest cellco by subscribers, reported a 31 percent increase in profit for the second quarter to June 30 2008. Net income increased to US\$470.2 million from US\$359.3 million 12 months previously. Revenue climbed 52.1 percent to US\$2.61 billion from US\$1.72 billion. Operating income before depreciation and amortization (OIBDA) for the company as a whole rose 36 percent to US\$1.22 billion year-on-year. In Russia, OIBDA rose 36 percent to US\$1.06 billion with a margin of 47.3 percent.

VimpleCom CEO Alexander Izosimov said, "The increase in revenue was driven by fast organic growth in both our mobile and fixed line operations as well as by the first full quarter consolidation of Golden Telecom." On February 29 this year, VimpleCom acquired Golden Telecom for US\$4.3 billion to create the country's first integrated fixed and mobile

operator and expand into the fast-growing broadband Internet market

VimpelCom had 53.7 million subscribers in the former Soviet countries at the end of June, an addition of 6 million from a year earlier. Monthly average revenue per user (ARPU) rose in Russia to US\$14.7 from US\$12.3 a year ago. The company, which operates under the Beeline brand, provides services in Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Armenia, and Georgia.

MTS reports subscriber growth though Ukraine continues to slip

Russia's largest cellco by subscribers, Mobile TeleSystems (MTS), has announced its customer figures for the end of July. The firm added 480,000 net new users in Russia during July to take its domestic customer total to 61.86 million. 14.14 million of these are in Moscow and the surrounding region. MTS lost 530,000 subscribers in Ukraine, where it saw its subscriber base fall to 18.60 million, but there was growth in Uzbekistan (up 240,000 to 4.61 million), Turkmenistan (up 70,000 to 640,000), Armenia (up 70,000 to 1.56 million), and Belarus (up 40,000 to 4.07 million).

MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Wi-Fi hotspots likely to grow 40 percent this year

ABI research reports that worldwide Wi-Fi hotspots are likely to witness a growth of 40 percent this year. It said that Europe would drive the growth in global hotspots, adding that countries like France, the UK, Germany, and Russia are seeing impressive growth in this segment. Speaking about the rapidly changing business model of W-Fi hotspots, ABI Research vice president and research director Stan Schatt stated that Starbucks' move to adopt a free Wi-Fi hotspot model is having a serious impact on

other hotspot owners, which are now seeing Wi-Fi as an operational expenditure and not as a profit center. Mr. Schatt said that several retailers are likely to embrace a free W-Fi service model in various phases. He said that hotspots would soon encourage people to pay for value-added downloads like TV shows and music. Also, the diverse range of devices supporting Wi-Fi also discourages hotspot owners from charging for the services.

ER-Telecom selects AudioCodes residential VoIP media gateways

AudioCodes, a provider of voice-over-IP (VoIP) technologies and voice network products, announced that ER-Telecom, a Russian telecommunications company, has chosen to deploy the MediaPack MP-202 Telephone Adapter into their network. The MP-202 is a member of the AudioCodes MediaPack series of analog VoIP gateways.

In addition to current deployments of AudioCodes' trunking business gateways, ER-Telecom will be implementing the MP-202 residential gateway into their network. This Mediant residential gateway offers local and globally based operators and system integrators full interoperability with leading Softswitches and SIP application Servers, exceptional voice

quality, feature-richness, and increased security. The MP-202 is a two-line SIP gateway with an internal router consisting of DHCP, NAT, and PPPoE capabilities, which enables subscribers to connect to their home PCs or LANs hub/switch. By using automatic software and configurational upgrades through periodic network updates, the MP-202 is designed for mass deployment while allowing operators to control their operational expenses.

"AudioCodes is a reliable company that provides advanced VoIP equipment," stated Sergey Gusev, deputy director at ER-Telecom. "After some final testing with a range of similar devices we selected AudioCodes and look forward to working with them."

"We are pleased to join forces with ER-Telecom and add our best-of-breed, feature-rich media gateways to their growing network. Our collaboration with ER-Telecom is expected to increase AudioCodes' footprint within the Russian market," stated Lior Aldema, vice president of marketing and product management at AudioCodes. "Our offering of both business and residential gateways provides global service providers a high level of voice quality technology and unique advantages in the marketplace."

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WEST EAST

Learn From Europe's POF Know-How
- Three Day Summer Workshop -
Aug 20 - 22, 2008 • Santa Clara, CA

A Special Pre-POF 2008 Opportunity Co-Organized by the POF Application Center and Information Gatekeepers

Workshop Organization

The West Meets East 3-Day Workshop consist of 6 single tutorials , each about two and a half hours long. After each of the tutorials, a one-hour discussion will follow.

Attendees may register for all six tutorials at a discount, or select individual tutorials to fit their schedules and interests. Early Bird pricing expires August 1, 2008

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

All listed prices subject to discounts for multiple attendees (-10% each), etc.,

Day 1: Active Components and Fibers

Wednesday - August 20, 2008

Transmitter and Receiver for POF Systems

Olaf Ziemann, POF-AC Germany

- LED and laser for data communication
- Large area photo detectors
- Comparison of different wavelengths for POF transmission
- Coupling technologies for active components

Wed. AM Tutorial 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Large Core Diameter Optical Fibers

Olaf Ziemann, POF-AC Germany

- Polymer Optical Fibers, hybrid and glass fibers
- Standards for POF
- Optical and mechanical properties of POF
- Measurement techniques for large core diameter fibers

Wed. PM Tutorial 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Day 2: Passive Components and System Design

Thursday - August 21, 2008 Thu. AM Tutorial

Design of POF Systems

Olaf Ziemann, POF-AC Germany

- Review of published transmission systems
- Power budget calculation for POF systems
- Commercial available systems

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Passive Components for POF

Karl-Friedrich Klein, FH Gießen/Friedberg, Germany

- Connectors
- Attenuators, filters and mode converters
- POF surface preparation
- Measurement and calculation of connector losses

Thu. PM Tutorial 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Day 3: Test and Measurement, Environmental Tests and Status

Friday - August 22, 2008

Measurements on POF

Olaf Ziemann, POF-AC Germany

- Attenuation and bandwidth measurements
- POF-OTDR
- Climatic behavior and lifetime measurements

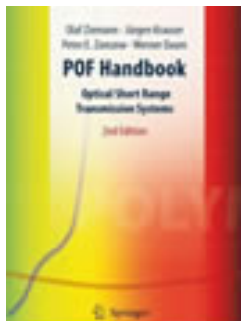
Fri. AM Tutorial 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Specialty Optical Fibers

Karl-Friedrich Klein, FH Gießen/Friedberg, Germany

- Microstructured POF
- Silica glass and conventional glass fibers
- Fibers and light guides for power transmission
- UV fibers
- Specialty POF

Fri. PM Tutorial 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



The workshop material is based on the new:

“POF Handbook”

by Olaf Ziemann

Available now from:

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