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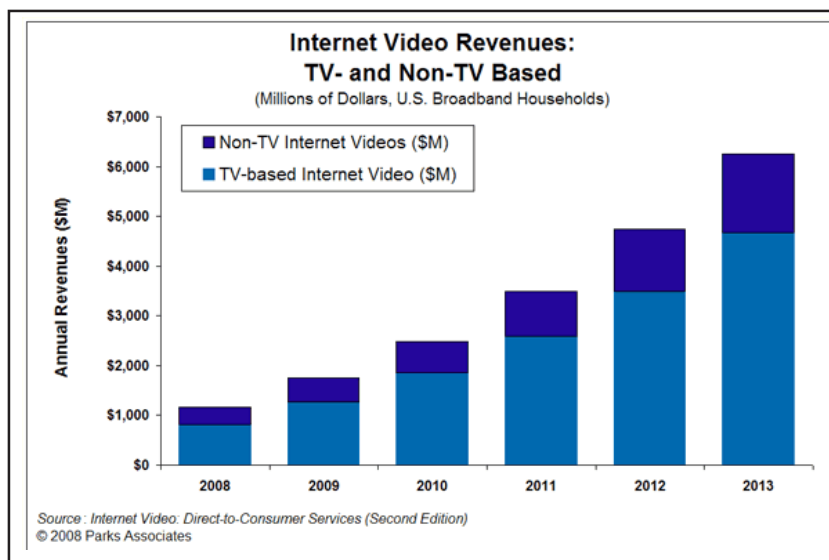
Satellite & Broadcasting

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Monthly Newsletter Covering Worldwide Developments in the Satellite & Broadcasting Telecommunications Industry

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TOP NEWS

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.

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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.

NASA's General Dynamics-built GLAST satellite successfully launched

The Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope (GLAST) observatory, designed and built by General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems, was successfully launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.

GLAST is a next-generation high-energy gamma-ray satellite designed to make observations of celestial gamma-ray sources.

The mission is an astrophysics and particle physics partnership, developed in collaboration with the US Department of Energy, along with important contributions from academic institutions and partners in France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Sweden.

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.

SpeedCast and PT Telkom to launch video services for the latter's broadband users

SpeedCast and PT Telkom have joined hands to jointly unveil a video service for providing 20 channels to the latter's broadband users in Indonesia. Under the terms of the deal, which was inked at CommunicAsia, SpeedCast would provide PT Telkom with all the content on its satellite platform on AsiaSat 4 satellite. Subsequently, the reception of the content would take place at the edge of the Indonesian firm's network across 30 network nodes in the country. PT Telekom intends to provide 20 video channels to its 300,000 Speedy broadband users.

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 such 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.

MEASAT-3a to be launched on August 21, 2008

Malaysia-based SAT Satellite Systems Sdn Bhd said that the launch of its fourth communications satellite, MEASAT-3a, will take place on August 21, 2008.

The company said that the MEASAT-3a is expected to boost MEASAT's Ku-band and C-band satellite capacity at the 91.5 degrees E orbital location.

The new satellite would work alongside MEASAT-3 and also provide in-orbit satellite redundancy services.

Chief operating officer Paul Brown Kenyon said that this launch will address the growing demand for DTH and video distribution services. It will also expedite overall growth of the organization.

CONTRACTS**Shiron becomes the first company to locally develop broadband satellite communication VSATs in Brazil**

Shiron Satellite Communication's Brazil-based unit has signed an agreement with Sanmina-SCI for developing broadband satellite very small aperture terminals (VSATs) in Hortolândia (SP) in the district of Campinas. Following this agreement, Shiron will become the sole firm to produce VSATs locally in Brazil. Currently, Brazil imports over 20,000 VSATs every year, and its installed base has exceeded the 100,000 mark.

The National Agency of Telecommunications (Anatel) had approved Shiron's InterSKY Irg-S2/ACM broadband satellite VSAT terminals in March 2008. Shiron has already deployed more than 7,000 VSAT terminals in 2007.

In Latin America, it is currently deploying 3,000 iRG-S2/ACM VSATs with 16APSK Adaptive Code Modulation (ACM) outbound in addition to an 8PSK with FEC 8/9.

SES NEW SKIES to provide GBMI with multitransponder capacity on NSS-11 satellite

SES company SES NEW SKIES said that it has entered into a multiyear deal with Global Broadcasting and Multimedia Inc. (GBMI) for providing multiple-transponder capacity on its NSS-11 satellite relating to their G-Sat direct-to-home satellite TV service in Asia. Samoa-based GBMI currently provides satellite Internet, satellite wireless transmission and data applications, DTH TV, and "headend in the sky" (HITS) services for cable TV operators. Its G-Sat DTH service is providing international programs which include Mandarin, English, Korean, Japanese, Tagalog, and Spanish channels. Philip Chien, president and CEO of GBMI, said that the NSS-11 satellite from SES NEW SKIES will adequately address its DTH requirements, adding that the additional capacity in the satellite would meet customer demand across the Asia-Pacific region.

Integral Systems Europe to provide carrier monitoring and interference detection capability to Telenor

ISE (Integral Systems Europe) announced the delivery and installation of a fully integrated CSM (Carrier Signal Monitoring) and transponder planning system for the THOR family of satellites at Telenor Satellite Broadcasting AS facilities in Nittedal, Norway. The turnkey system includes products from Integral's wholly owned subsidiary, SAT Corporation, a provider of satellite carrier monitoring solutions.

This system consists of SAT Corporation's Monics carrier monitoring and interference-detection system for Ku-band beams, and a transponder-management system from Optimal Satcom.

ISE is using pre-integrated products and has scored significant successes on previous

programs such as Thuraya, HellasSat, and Rascom.

The new system has been proven to ensure a fast implementation and optimized operational usage. Integral's solution allows all systems to interface easily and to share data automatically, thus providing capabilities far superior to other market-available solutions. Further extensions to additional bands and monitoring sites are planned by Telenor.

"The Integral Systems range of proposed products and services offer a completely integrated and very powerful technical solution for managing satellite communications," said Cato Halsaa, vice president and CEO of Telenor Satellite Broadcasting AS.

"It has been a pleasure working with such professional and knowledgeable personnel as we installed our products at Telenor premises," said Bruno Dupas, president of Integral Systems Europe. "Our integrated system approach provides unique capabilities and added flexibility. Providing our customers with easy to use and cost-effective solutions for their day-to-day mission operations is ISE's primary objective."

BANTEL selects iDirect platform to offer GSM satellite backhaul in Venezuela

VT iDirect Inc. (iDirect), a company of VT Systems Inc. (VT Systems), announced that TELECOMUNICACIONES BANTEL (BANTEL) has installed a network of iDirect Series 3000 Remote Satellite Routers, enabling Corporacion Digitel (Digitel) to expand cellular access within Venezuela by backhauling GSM traffic over satellite.

BANTEL, a service provider in Venezuela, installed the new network on its existing iDirect Series 15000 Universal Satellite Hub. Digitel, the leading cellular operator in Venezuela, will use the network to extend the reach of its voice and data services and bolster capacity for existing customers. iDirect is a

global provider of satellite-based IP communications technology.

BANTEL selected the iDirect system after a series of extensive tests found that other methods of GSM backhaul proved too costly or incapable of managing voice traffic. The iDirect solution lowers bandwidth requirements and guarantees voice quality through advanced traffic optimization capabilities. Service providers can pool bandwidth across multiple sites on a shared IP time division multiple access (TDMA) network and allocate it to each base tower system (BTS) based on its immediate bandwidth requirements. For Digitel, the iDirect network will serve as an alternative to microwave backhaul systems that require greater operating and capital investments.

"Current microwave backhaul systems require a hub every 50 miles. In Venezuela, this isn't cost-effective because the distance between sites often exceeds 700 miles. For years, we've been working to develop a more effective GSM backhaul solution. With iDirect, we have now brought a viable solution to market and signed our first customer. This is a major accomplishment for us."

Iridium selects two in competition for design and development contract for 'NEXT' constellation

Iridium Satellite LLC announced that it has selected two companies — Lockheed Martin and Thales Alenia Space — to participate in the final phase of its procurement process for the company's next-generation satellite constellation, "Iridium NEXT." Iridium chose Lockheed Martin and Thales Alenia Space as a result of their initial, innovative constellation design concepts; demonstrated understanding of performance requirements and capabilities; and preliminary cost estimates for the manufacture and launch of Iridium NEXT. The final phase will last approximately nine months

and is anticipated to result in the award of a full-scale development agreement for Iridium NEXT with one prime contractor by the middle of 2009.

“The selection of Lockheed Martin and Thales Alenia Space is a major milestone for us,” stated Matt Desch, CEO and chairman, Iridium. “This program reflects our commitment to the expansion of our amazing and very unique network, and to making our services even more powerful and cost-effective for our customers as we replace our technical marvel of a network with an even more powerful one.”

Iridium, with more than 285,000 subscribers, is the fastest-growing mobile satellite services (MSS) provider, and it offers a highly differentiated service capability. Iridium says it is unmatched for reliable, secure, near real-time worldwide communications and, as the only truly global mobile voice and data service provider, delivers a dependable and critical lifeline where no other communications reach. With Iridium NEXT, the company plans not only to continue advancing the way its customers do business through the use of Iridium services, but also to serve new markets.

“We are extremely impressed with our finalists’ technical and creative design recommendations, as well as with their ideas for important enhancements to our existing service offerings,” said Desch. “Both are identifying ways of meeting our Iridium NEXT requirements using advanced technology concepts.

These concepts will help us realize cost-effective ways of providing enhanced products, services and capabilities for our current customers, as well as for those new customers we plan to serve in the future — and the finalists are showing us they know how to do it in an affordable way.”

Through Iridium NEXT, the company plans to offer a flexible array of new services in addition to continuing what it offers today. Iridium

NEXT will maintain the company’s unique and advanced cross-linked satellite architecture. It will feature an IP-based architecture, using broad-based technology enhancements from the industry. In addition, Iridium NEXT has the potential to host multiple secondary payloads, which will broaden the scope of the network’s capabilities while providing an additional platform for applications such as sensing, earth observation, and command and control.

Mobilkom Austria inks contract with Media Broadcast to provide DVB-H-based mobile TV

Mobilkom Austria has entered into a deal with broadcast network player Media Broadcast for marketing its mobile TV services based on the DVB-H standard; the new mobile TV service is supposed to be launched this summer. In February 2008, Media Broadcast had bagged the tender for deploying a DVB-H network along with Austrian operators One and 3 Austria. Now that Mobilkom has become a part of this consortium, it will be able to provide its A1 Mobile TV services through UMTS and DVB-T, as well as DVB-H. The operator is currently selling DVB-H-based mobile handsets in A1 shops. The details pertaining to the tariff rates of DVB-H mobile TV will be disclosed upon the fulfillment of several organizational and regulatory conditions.

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

SIRIUS and XM complete merger

SIRIUS Satellite Radio and XM Satellite Radio announced that they have completed their merger, resulting in the nation’s premier radio company. The new company plans to change its corporate name to SIRIUS XM Radio Inc. The combined company’s stock will continue to be traded on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol “SIRI.”

SIRIUS XM Radio begins day one with over 18.5 million subscribers, making it the second-largest radio company, based upon revenue, in the country and, based upon subscribers, the second-largest subscription media business in the US. With under 10 percent penetration of the home and car market, the opportunity for continued growth is significant.

"I am delighted to announce the completion of this exciting merger between SIRIUS and XM," said Mel Karmazin, CEO of SIRIUS XM Radio. "We have worked diligently to close this transaction and we look forward to integrating our best-in-class management teams and operations so we can begin delivering on our promise of more choices and lower prices for subscribers.

"Every one of our constituencies is a winner. Combined, SIRIUS XM Radio will deliver superior value to our shareholders. By offering more compelling packages and the best content in audio entertainment, we are well positioned for increased subscriber growth.

Our laser focus on subscribers will continue and listeners can be assured that there will be no disruption in service. We also believe that the completion of the merger will eliminate any confusion that has been lingering in the marketplace," added Karmazin.

XM shareholders will receive 4.6 shares of SIRIUS common stock for each share of XM.

Competitive new options for consumers

SIRIUS XM Radio broadcasts more than 300 channels of programming, including exclusive radio offerings from Howard Stern, Oprah, Opie & Anthony, and Martha Stewart, among others.

SIRIUS XM Radio will offer these expanded options to consumers through arrangements with the world's leading automakers and its relationships with nationwide retailers.

As a result of the merger, SIRIUS XM Radio will also be able to offer consumers new packages in audio entertainment, including the first-ever a la carte programming option in subscription media. In addition to two a la carte options, the new packages will include "Best of Both," giving subscribers the option to access certain programming from the other network; discounted Family Friendly packages; and tailored packages including "Mostly Music" and "News, Talk and Sports." The first of the new packages will be available in the early fall.

"One of the most exciting benefits of this transaction is the ability to offer subscribers the option of expanding their subscriptions to include the Best of Both services. Given the respective popularity of exclusive programming on both SIRIUS and XM, we expect many subscribers will upgrade their current subscription," said Karmazin.

"The upside potential for both consumers and shareholders is huge. Consumers have the ease of adding premier programming without purchasing a new device. For shareholders, this kind of organic growth is a key part of the company's future and the success we expect to see," added Karmazin.

As promised when the merger was first announced, existing radios will continue to work, and every subscriber has the option of maintaining his or her current service package.

Benefits for shareholders begin immediately; integration already under way

SIRIUS XM Radio expects to begin realizing the synergies expected from this transaction immediately.

"In addition to realizing significant potential revenue growth, the management team will move quickly to capitalize on the synergies that many analysts have predicted for this combination.

We expect to begin achieving those synergies without sacrificing any of the world-

class programming and marketing we are known for,” said Karmazin.

The company also reiterated guidance for the combined SIRIUS XM Radio. Based upon a preliminary analysis, the combined company expects to realize total synergies, net of the costs to achieve such synergies, of approximately \$400 million in 2009; to post adjusted EBITDA exceeding \$300 million in 2009; and to achieve positive free cash flow, before satellite capital expenditures, for the full year 2009. The company also expects that both synergies and adjusted EBITDA will continue growing beyond 2009.

“We have all the tools necessary to begin executing as a combined company with high aspirations for subscriber growth and greater financial performance in part from the significant synergies that we begin realizing literally today — on Day One. We are moving quickly to integrate the operations,” said Karmazin.

The corporate headquarters will be located in New York, New York, and XM Satellite Radio, the company’s wholly owned subsidiary, will remain headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Trading in XMSR common stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market has ceased.

BUSINESS

Thuraya eyes opportunities in Asian maritime segment

Mobile satellite service provider Thuraya said that it is exploring new business opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region and is carefully eyeing the maritime business of Inmarsat. Thuraya has completed the tests on the Thuraya-3 satellite, which will enable the UAE-based firm to expand its coverage in Asia and double its market share. Thuraya CEO Yousuf Al Sayed said that this allows new customers in the region to access its satellite phone service. Thuraya has signed partnerships

with network service providers in Korea, Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, and Mongolia. It is intending to capitalize on the maritime segment with its new ThurayaMarine service. But Inmarsat, which provides its handheld MSS services in the Asian region, dominates the existing maritime communications system.

KVH taps industry veteran to manage growth of global mobile broadband satellite network

KVH Industries Inc., has hired Mr. Brent Bruun as its new vice president for business development. Mr. Bruun, formerly of SES AMERICOM, is expected to play a key role in KVH’s planned worldwide rollout of the mini-VSAT Broadband satellite communications service. Expansion will provide service coverage in new regions, supporting leisure, commercial, and government vessels while offering opportunities to strengthen KVH’s growing satellite communications products and airtime services revenue streams.

“While at SES AMERICOM, I had the opportunity to collaborate with KVH during the initial launch of the groundbreaking mini-VSAT service and was very impressed with the way they do business. Now, I’m thrilled to be a part of the KVH team,” commented Mr. Bruun. “The TracPhone V7 and mini-VSAT Broadband service are becoming a vital part of the marketplace, and I look forward to helping guide the global expansion of the service. We have a tremendous opportunity to offer affordable broadband communications within the maritime market while also generating airtime revenue from related aeronautical applications.”

In his previous position as senior vice president of strategic initiatives for SES AMERICOM, Mr. Bruun concentrated on global mobile broadband opportunities with particular emphasis on the maritime and aeronautical markets, experience that will be invaluable as

he assumes his new role at KVH. His most recent experience is complemented by the diversified knowledge he has gained throughout his career at KPMG, General Electric, and SES AMERICOM in general management, finance, accounting, operations, sales, and business development. He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Alfred University and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Mr. Bruun will help lead an expansion effort that will include acquisition of satellite capacity from satellite operators as well as the purchase of new regional satellite hubs for the global rollout of KVH's mini-VSAT Broadband service. Together with the compact, 24-inch TracPhone V7 antenna, the service already offers regional voice-over-IP (VoIP) telephone service and Internet access as fast as 512Kbps (upload) and 2Mbps (download) to mariners throughout North America, the Caribbean, the North Atlantic, and Europe.

"Brent is a valuable addition to our development team, and the expertise he brings with him will help us to successfully and efficiently expand our mini-VSAT Broadband coverage worldwide and into new markets. As we do so, KVH will be able to offer leisure, commercial, and government vessels around the globe a rugged, powerful satellite communications technology that brings significant advantages over traditional VSAT in size, data speed, and airtime costs, while still being compact and practical enough for smaller vessels," explained Martin Kits van Heyningen, KVH's chief executive officer.

Turkey's new communications satellite launched

Binali Yildirim, the transportation minister of Turkey, announced that its new communications satellite Turksat 3A was launched from French Guiana. The launch of this satellite had been delay because of a

technical problem. Turksat 3A, which is equipped with Ku-band transponders, will enable Turksat to provide telecom services in addition to direct television broadcasting services across Turkey, North Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and Central Asia.

Switchable transponders would allow Turksat to be a bridge between Asia and Europe. Moreover, Turksat 3A's coverage is also expected to be beneficial for broadband applications including VSAT services.

SERVICES

US company BB SAT to provide satellite broadband service in Japan

Beginning October 1, BB SAT LLC will demonstrate two-way consumer satellite broadband service in Japan. The demonstration is being conducted under the sponsorship of the Japanese Satellite Broadband Promotion Council with oversight and observation by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. The demonstration service is aimed at showing how broadband satellite service can solve Japan's "digital divide" problem of several million households and how this service can be a significant part of the government's strategy to provide broadband service to all citizens. Two towns in the Japanese "digital divide," Shobara in Hiroshima prefecture and Tsuru in Yamanashi prefecture, have been selected as sites for this initial demonstration service.

James Beitchman, president of BB SAT said, "Very successful satellite broadband services aimed at consumer markets have been established in the U.S., and BB SAT will bring those same systems and services to the Japanese people.

We are most fortunate to receive very strong support from ViaSat Inc. in the U.S. and Space Communications Corporation of Japan for this program."

The demonstration service will use the economical, technically advanced ViaSat SurfBeam system already in widespread use in the US and elsewhere. Satellite capacity is being provided by Space Communications Corporation using their Superbird B2 spacecraft. BB SAT intends to begin commercial service aimed at “digital divide” and underserved broadband customers in Japan in the second quarter of 2009.

ICO adds Cartoon Network, Adult Swim to channel lineup for mobile interactive media trial

ICO Global Communications (Holdings) Limited (ICO) announced that it has reached agreements with Turner Broadcasting System Inc. to provide content from the Cartoon Network and Adult Swim for use in ICO’s alpha trials of its mobile interactive media service, known as ICO mim.

ICO mim is a fully interactive mobile video, navigation, and emergency-assistance service powered by the ICO G1 satellite, which launched in April 2008. The trials will take place in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, and Las Vegas, Nevada, starting in late summer of this year.

Cartoon Network and Adult Swim join a growing list of well-established programming brands for the trial, which already includes offerings from NBC Universal and Discovery Networks. The ICO mim service will include a broad mix of news, children’s, entertainment, and sports offerings.

“Children’s programming is an essential genre for any rear-seat mobile entertainment service,” commented Sue Hamilton, ICO’s lead strategic content negotiator, “and we’re pleased to add Cartoon Network content to Discovery Kids as we build out our programming lineup. In addition, Turner Broadcasting’s Adult Swim highlights ICO’s emphasis on delivering a

channel lineup with appeal to a broad consumer audience.”

“The ICO G1 satellite is performing very well during in-orbit system testing, and preparations are well underway for our alpha trials of ICO mim. In adding this agreement with Turner to our existing agreements with NBC Universal and Discovery, we are making excellent progress on assembling a strong mix of high quality programming options for ICO mim,” commented Tim Bryan, chief executive officer for ICO.

Boeing’s newest satellite for Thuraya ready to expand mobile coverage in Asia

The Boeing Company announced the on-orbit handover of the Thuraya-3 Geo-Mobile satellite, which will extend Thuraya’s coverage to 170 countries in Europe, Africa, and Asia. Thuraya-3 is the third Boeing-built 702 Geo-Mobile satellite for Thuraya Satellite Telecommunications, a multiregional mobile satellite operator. The satellite was launched January 15 aboard a Sea Launch Zenit-3SL rocket.

“Over the past decade, Boeing has worked side by side with Thuraya to develop satellites that provide much-needed additional communications capacity to people across Asia, and we continue that partnership with the handover of Thuraya-3,” said Craig Cooning, vice president and general manager of Boeing Space and Intelligence Systems. “Boeing thanks Thuraya for choosing a Boeing 702 satellite.”

Hughes announces fastest consumer satellite Internet access plan ever offered

Hughes Network Systems, LLC, (HUGHES), a provider of broadband satellite networks and services, announced the launch of the fastest consumer broadband satellite Internet access plan ever offered. The ElitePremium plan, operating over the

HughesNet service and using affordable consumer equipment, features download speeds of up to 5Mbps and will be available to order August 21, 2008.

ElitePremium joins the newly unveiled Elite and ElitePlus plans with download speeds of up to 2Mbps and 3Mbps, respectively, and the popular consumer plans — Home, Pro, and ProPlus, which feature recently increased download speeds of up to 1Mbps, 1.2Mbps, and 1.6Mbps, respectively.

“ElitePremium rounds out the most exciting range of satellite Internet access plans ever offered,” said Mike Cook, senior vice president of sales and marketing for Hughes. “Over the last few weeks we have enhanced the speeds across our full range of service plans. We are the only provider that offers consumers in underserved parts of the country such a comprehensive range of true broadband service options.”

The enhanced speed of the ElitePremium plan is made possible by the launch of Hughes’ SPACEWAY 3 satellite, the largest satellite in the US and the world’s first commercial satellite with onboard switching and routing. SPACEWAY 3 has the greatest total capacity of any commercial satellite, which fuels the faster speeds. SPACEWAY 3 was launched in August of 2007 and began serving customers in April of 2008.

With more than 400,000 subscribers, HughesNet is the leading broadband satellite Internet service in the United States. For more information about HughesNet services and the new ElitePremium plan, please visit <http://www.hughesnet.com> or call 1-866-859-2268.

HughesNet subscribers benefit from faster speeds at same low prices

Hughes Network Systems LLC (HUGHES), a provider of broadband satellite networks and services, announced that it has

increased the speeds of three of its popular HughesNet consumer service plans — Home, Pro, and ProPlus — at the same low prices, giving new subscribers located beyond the reach of DSL or cable an even faster broadband connection.

The increased speeds empower consumers to shop and purchase online effortlessly, saving time and money in the midst of unprecedented gas prices. The Home plan now features download speeds of up to 1Mbps. The Pro and ProPlus plans feature download speeds of up to 1.2 and 1.6Mbps, respectively.

“Consumers living in areas not served by terrestrial broadband are making it clear that they want to enjoy all the benefits of a broadband connection and they want to do it at high-speed,” said Peter Gulla, Hughes vice president of marketing. “With gas and everyday commodity prices soaring, HughesNet enhanced Home, Pro and ProPlus plans put the benefits of high-speed Internet access right at their fingertips at an affordable price.”

The higher-speed Home, Pro, and ProPlus join the recently introduced HughesNet Elite and ElitePlus plans, the fastest satellite broadband consumer plans ever offered, with download speeds of up to 3Mbps. With prices starting as low as \$59.99 a month, the wide range of HughesNet plans now available can meet the requirements of any consumer or home business.

“The buying preferences of satellite broadband customers demonstrate the trend toward speed and features, indicating that performance is the key driver of the majority of broadband purchasing decisions,” said Jimmy Schaeffler of the Carmel Group. “With top level offerings from companies such as Hughes, consumers get the speed they desire at a generally affordable price, as well as access to a host of applications that previously were not possible.”

The speed enhancements in the Home, Pro, and ProPlus plans were made possible by the launch of Hughes's SPACEWAY 3, the largest satellite in the US and the world's first commercial satellite with onboard switching and routing. SPACEWAY 3 has the highest total capacity of any commercial satellite, which fuels the faster speeds. SPACEWAY 3 was launched in August of 2007 and began serving customers in April of 2008.

DigitalGlobe announces ImageAtlas 4.0; on-demand high-resolution satellite and aerial imagery available to anyone

DigitalGlobe (<http://www.digitalglobe.com>), a provider of high-resolution satellite world imagery products and services, unveiled ImageAtlas 4.0, the newest version of its online store for high-resolution digital earth imagery. ImageAtlas 4.0 enables companies in real estate, civil engineering, government, insurance, GIS, and public safety to easily and affordably access on-demand satellite and aerial images of specific locations, properties, and neighborhoods. The principal new feature of ImageAtlas 4.0 is the inclusion of georeferencing files with all downloaded images that allow easy integration into other mapping applications such as GIS programs and Google Earth.

ImageAtlas coverage includes the most populous areas of the world, including in-depth coverage of 300 metropolitan cities across 127 countries.

"ImageAtlas 4.0 is the latest example of how DigitalGlobe is meeting the increased demand for downloadable aerial and satellite images fueled by the growth of online portals, mapping programs and consumer navigation applications," said Marc Tremblay, senior vice president and general manager for DigitalGlobe's commercial business unit. "As the foremost resource for businesses relying on

global digital imagery to stay competitive, DigitalGlobe is passionate about providing wide accessibility through its comprehensive, high precision world imagery solutions. ImageAtlas is a simple and cost-effective way for business users to quickly incorporate premium imagery into their projects and presentations."

Building on the strength of previous versions, ImageAtlas 4.0 allows anyone to explore and use the world's sharpest and most current archive of premier high-resolution satellite and aerial imagery collected from DigitalGlobe's submeter satellite constellation and aerial network. ImageAtlas 4.0 provides a number of advantages over other online imagery sources through its historical archive selection and change-detection capabilities, distance and area measuring tools, and offline professional print delivery. With greater selection and control over the imagery type, date, and scale, as well as integration into mapping software, users are able to gain the best fit for their individual needs.

ImageAtlas 4.0 is the largest and most accessible online library of images from around the world. Pricing options for ImageAtlas 4.0 include individual downloads as well as monthly and yearly subscriptions. Access ImageAtlas 4.0 at <http://www.digitalglobe.com>.

Ocean Surface Topography Mission/Jason 2 begins mapping oceans

Less than a month after launch, the NASA-French space agency Ocean Surface Topography Mission (OSTM)/Jason 2 oceanography satellite has produced its first complete maps of global ocean surface topography, surface wave height, and wind speed.

The new data will help scientists monitor changes in global sea level and the distribution of heat in the ocean. This information is used to monitor climate change and ocean circulation and to enable more accurate weather, ocean,

and climate forecasts. The data reveal patterns of sea-level anomalies, which are used by scientists to calculate the speed and direction of ocean surface currents.

The new mission extends a 16-year continuous record of global sea level measurements begun in 1992 by the NASA/Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) TOPEX/Poseidon mission and continued by the two agencies on Jason 1, launched in 2001. Data from TOPEX/Poseidon and Jason 1 shows that mean sea level has been rising by about 0.12 inches a year since 1993.

The new maps were generated from the first 10 days of data collected once the new satellite reached its operational orbit of 830 miles on July 4. OSTM/Jason 2 and its predecessor, Jason 1, now are flying in formation in the same orbit approximately 55 seconds apart, making nearly simultaneous measurements that are allowing scientists to precisely calibrate the new satellite's instruments. Comparisons of data from the two satellites on sea-level anomalies, significant wave height, and ocean wind speed all show very close correlation of all measured parameters.

"These initial observations from OSTM/Jason 2 compare very closely to those of Jason 1," said Lee-Lueng Fu, OSTM/Jason 2 project scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California. "To be able to collect such high-quality science data within a month of launch breaks previous records. It is also a direct reflection of how mature the field of satellite altimetry has become and of the seamless cooperation of our international team."

The satellite's first radar altimeter data were acquired just 48 hours after its launch on June 20 from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, on a Delta II rocket. CNES processed the first test results, followed by more advanced data results a week after launch. The more advanced results were produced after

calculating the precise location of the satellite's preliminary orbits. The satellite, its instruments, and the ground segment all are functioning properly. After it has been fully calibrated and validated, the satellite will begin providing oceanographic products to users around the world.

OSTM/Jason 2 is an international endeavor, with responsibilities for satellite development and launch shared between NASA and CNES. CNES provided the OSTM/Jason 2 spacecraft, NASA provided the launch, and NASA and CNES jointly provided the primary payload instruments. CNES and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are responsible for satellite operations, while JPL is managing the mission for NASA. Data processing is being carried out by CNES, the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) and NOAA, depending on the type of product.

After on-orbit commissioning of OSTM/Jason 2 is completed, CNES will hand over mission operations and control to NOAA, which then will join with EUMETSAT to generate, archive, and distribute data products to users worldwide.

For more information about OSTM/Jason 2, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/ostm>.

On Telecom unveils IPTV in Greece

Greek telecommunications operator On Telecom has unveiled its ON TV IPTV service in the country. This service includes a video-on-demand (VoD) service with over 1,200 titles each month, On Multiplex movies channel, pay-television packages including Discovery (comprising Discovery Science, Discovery World, and Discovery Travel and Living), National Geographic (NatGeo Wild, NatGeo Music), Baby TV, adult channel Dorcel TV, and On sports (NASN, EXPN Classic, Extreme Sports). Users would be able to play eight

games via On TV Games using the remote control. On Telecom will also provide all the channels of Greece-based satellite service provider NOVA. The pay-TV packages will cost between EUR2 (\$3.11) and EUR8 (\$12.47), whereas the entire On TV package is available for EUR15 (\$23.38) a month.

MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Consumers to spend billions on Internet Video Services by 2013

TV-based Internet video receivers and connected consumer electronics platforms will drive transactional revenues for premium Internet video services past \$6 billion

U.S. consumers will spend over \$6 billion for Internet video services by 2013, with direct-to-TV videos accounting for 75% of that revenue, according to Parks Associates' Internet Video: Direct-to-Consumer Services (Second Edition). This new report finds that greater ownership of connected game consoles, networked TVs, and alternative video-on-demand set-top receivers is generating significant growth in user-paid revenues.

"Consumption of premium Internet video content to date has been low," said Kurt Scherf, Vice President, Principal Analyst, Parks Associates. "Services have been available only on less-than-optimal screens – PCs and portable multimedia players. But new connected products that link to premium Internet video services are emerging at a rapid pace, moving the Internet video viewing experience into the living room. This shift will help grow revenues considerably."

Scherf said the Internet video market is maturing as portals, aggregators, broadcasters, and other content creators and publishers are developing go-to-TV approaches and ad-

supported premium video services. Future areas to watch include ad-supported movie streams, new targeted advertising approaches, and Hollywood's efforts to offer more electronically distributed content through download-to-burn kiosks and other manufacturing-on-demand outlets.

Internet Video: Direct-to-Consumer Services (Second Edition) examines the business of premium Internet video delivery and includes the latest primary consumer research on Internet video consumption and interest in new Internet video services and products.

Parks Associates will present on Internet video and other digital-lifestyle topics at CONNECTIONS™ Europe Summit, August 29, in Berlin. Visit www.connectionseurope.com for more information.

For more information, contact 972-490-1113 or sales@parksassociates.com or visit www.parksassociates.com.

Set Top Box Unit Shipments Spike As Digital TV Services Proliferate

In the consumer electronics industry, the digital set top box market has been one of the fastest growing market segments over the past decade, and 2007 was no exception, reports In-Stat. Strong demand from Free-to-Air satellite service, coupled with the expanding availability of digital cable TV and IPTV services, fueled a record-setting number of digital set top box unit shipments. Recent research by In-Stat found the following:

- Worldwide digital set top box unit shipments reached 143 million in 2007, up sharply from 121 million in 2006.
- Satellite set top box unit shipments accounted for just over 50% of all global digital set top box unit shipments last year, while digital cable set top boxes made up 29% of total unit shipments.

- Worldwide digital set top box product revenues hit \$14 billion in 2007, an increase of \$3 billion over 2006 revenues.

- The market for semiconductor components inside digital set top boxes also grew significantly last year. The total value of semiconductors embedded in digital set top boxes increased to \$7.7 billion in 2007.

Recent In-Stat research, The Global Digital Set Top Box Market (#IN0804318ME), covers the worldwide market for digital set top boxes. This PowerPoint presentation provides a mid-year overview of the global digital set top box market. It discusses why digital set top boxes are important, addresses key trends shaping current product development, and examines the growth potential of all four digital set top box markets: cable, terrestrial, satellite/DTH, and IPTV.

It also provides an aggregated worldwide digital set top box revenue and unit shipment forecast through 2012. In addition, the presentation discusses key silicon suppliers for digital set top boxes, leading manufacturers of

set top box products, and projects how the global market will change and evolve over the next few years.

This research is part of In-Stat's Multimedia Entertainment Equipment service. Multimedia-enabled consumer electronics devices are at the center of today's digital entertainment experience. In-Stat's Multimedia Entertainment Equipment (MMEE) research service identifies, examines, and forecasts several of these rapidly evolving consumer electronics devices on a worldwide scale.

The MMEE service also uses primary research to better understand consumer perspectives on these products, to include purchasing intentions and product usage trends. The MMEE service examines key product manufacturers, discusses competitive business models, and provides the market shares of key manufacturers. A detailed examination of product technologies and features is also provided in most reports, including Bill of Materials forecasts with an emphasis on semiconductor content.

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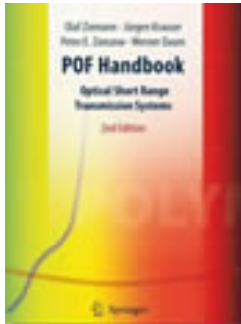
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“POF Handbook”
 by Olaf Ziemann
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Day 1: Active Components and Fibers

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.

<http://www.pof2008.com/westmeetseast/>



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