



CASBAA Convention 2007 boosts content and technology for AP region

HONG KONG

At a time of unprecedented growth for the regional pay-TV market, subscriptions are increasing at about 12 percent per year for digital cable, satellite, broadband and mobile TV services. This expansion presents a "huge potential for ad sales upside", according to participants at the CASBAA Convention 2007 that took place in Hong Kong at the beginning of November. The four-day CASBAA Convention 2007, organised by the Cable & Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia (CASBAA), attracted well over 1,500 participants, with an increase in paid delegates of almost 25 percent year-on-year and a similar increase in the number of sponsors.

Themed "It's all about Content!", the CASBAA Convention 2007 showcased leading Asia Pacific and global speakers such as Joong Soo Nam, President & CEO of KT Corporation; Dan Glickman, CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America; Paul Aiello, CEO of STAR Group; Andy Kaplan, President of International Networks of Sony Pictures Television; Ben Pyne, President, Global Distribution of Disney-ABC Worldwide Television and Disney Media Networks; Bob Zitter, CTO of HBO in the US; Peter Mukerjee, CEO of INX Asia; Tony DaSilva, COO of Sun Direct in India and Jason Krikorian, Co-Founder of Sling Media.

Addressing a core issue for the pay-TV industry, John Tsang, the Financial Secretary of the Hong Kong Government said "We have learned from many years of experience that combating piracy requires a public-private partnership. The pirates need to know that we are on their tails and that we are serious about beating them hard."

Speaking of the prospects for pay-TV and on-line media services in Korea, Joong Soo Nam of KT Corporation said "Media represents the fastest-growing industry in Korea, ex-

panding at the rate of 10 percent each year. . . . We are seeing content globalisation, which is happening in Asia, where a common culture is overcoming language barriers."

Other highlights of the CASBAA Convention 2007 were the CASBAA TV Ad Awards, the ABU/CASBAA/UNICEF Child Rights Award won by Hong Kong broadcaster TVB Jade for its documentary "Children Left Behind" and "In Conversation" sessions with the likes of Paul Aiello of STAR Group and Jason Krikorian, Co-Founder of Sling Media. Mr Krikorian said: "Consumers still like old media and we allow them to bring it to new platforms and extend the content value system. Distributors are thrilled. They are good at going to the living room but not to new media platforms."

Dan Brody, Strategic Partner Development of Google, explained how YouTube provided opportunities for old media. He said, "Great power comes from media or content owners who

interact with their users and brands online."

The emerging mobile TV market was also another hot topic discussed during the Convention. "In Asia, the mobile phone is often a consumer's first camera or digital music player, and it may now be their first digital TV," said Harri Mannisto, Director, Watch New Experiences, Multimedia of Nokia.

According to Jason Rubenstein, Senior Director Entertainment Mobile Devices Business of Motorola, research shows that China is attracting huge interest with 90 percent of the consumers surveyed expressing their desire for mobile television content.

Meanwhile, the annual Asia Pacific pay-TV piracy survey co-presented by CASBAA and Standard Chartered Bank confirmed that piracy remained a major issue. Losses are conservatively estimated to stand at US\$1.54 billion in 2007, as compared to US\$1.13 billion in 2006.

At the closing ceremony of

the Convention, the CASBAA Chairman's Award was presented to the CASBAA Executive Office for its long-term contribution to industry growth and development as well as lobbying for regulation over the past 12 months. "This is a tribute to the support of our members," said Simon Twiston Davies, CEO of CASBAA.

Wrapping up the Convention was the CASBAA Charity Ball in support of UNICEF and sponsored by Turner Broadcasting, themed "A CASBIAN Sea Odyssey". During the evening, hosted by Richard Quest of CNN, more than US\$50,000 was raised for UNICEF's work to help children.

"CASBAA is enthusiastic about the encouraging results of this year's Convention," said Marcel Fenez, Chairman of CASBAA. "Despite the plague of pay-TV piracy, we foresee more growth for the industry throughout the region as more innovative and high-quality content is created by operators for emerging broadcasting channels." ■





Loral and PSP complete acquisition

CANADA

Loral Space & Communications has announced that the CAD 3.25 billion acquisition of Telesat Canada by Loral and the Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSP Investments), including the transfer of Loral's fixed satellite services business Loral Skynet, has been completed.

"With the new Telesat, Loral has transformed its regional fixed satellite services business into a 64 percent interest in the fourth largest FSS operator in the world," said Michael Targoff, chief executive officer of Loral Space & Communications. "Loral's international satellite services, combined with Telesat's large North American presence, will offer customers a broad array of global satellite based video and data services.

"Telesat has one of the satellite industry's largest backlogs, representing nearly 8 times 2006 pro-forma revenue, which will provide resources for meaningful de-leveraging and opportunistic growth initiatives. Telesat's blue-chip customer base includes video and data service providers from around the world, including both of Canada's direct-to-home service providers."

Loral and PSP Investments acquired 100 percent of the stock of Telesat Canada from BCE for CAD 3.25 billion and the assumption of CAD 160 million of Telesat debt. To fund Loral's purchase of 64 percent of Telesat, Loral contributed its Loral Skynet assets and US \$178 million of cash. The new Telesat funded debt facilities of US \$2,665 million and CAD 226 million and paid off the outstanding debt at Telesat and Loral Skynet.

Due to the proceeds of the debt financing being predominantly in US dollars and the Telesat purchase price in Canadian dollars, in December 2006, Loral and PSP Investments entered into a series of foreign currency hedge transactions in order to insulate the companies from foreign currency fluctuations and to maintain favourable

exchange rates. As a result, Loral realized approximately \$123 million of foreign currency gains in one series of transactions and reduced the need for Telesat to borrow an additional \$225 million in another series. These currency transactions effectively funded the approximately 16 percent appreciation in the value of Telesat in US dollar terms since the transaction was announced.

Loral and PSP Investments will hold a 64 percent and 36 percent economic interest, respectively, in the new company. Consistent with Canadian law, Loral's total voting equity will be 33.3 percent, with PSP Investments and other Canadian investors having 66.7 percent. Effective November 1st, 2007, Loral's 64 percent economic interest in Telesat Canada will be reflected under equity income in affiliates.

Daniel Goldberg will continue to serve as president and chief executive officer of Telesat. The new Telesat will remain headquartered in Ottawa.

In addition, Loral today announced that along with the completion of its Telesat acquisition, it will restructure its corporate functions. Over the next six months, Loral will reduce the number of employees at its headquarters, consolidating some critical functions at its satellite manufacturing subsidiary, Space Systems/Loral. This restructuring will reduce the company's corporate expenses by up to \$10 million annually, after incurring approximately \$7 million of one-time cash cost, while still providing important operational oversight and strategic direction for its businesses.

As part of the restructuring, the company has announced that Eric J. Zahler, president and chief operating officer, will leave the company effective November 30, 2007. In addition, Richard J. Townsend will relinquish his position as chief financial officer. Mr. Townsend will remain with the company during a transition period of approximately six

months.

In connection with these changes, Loral has announced that Harvey B. Rein, currently Loral's vice president and controller, will succeed Townsend as chief financial officer. Richard P. Mastoloni will be named senior vice president of finance and treasurer. Mr. Mastoloni is currently vice president and treasurer.

"Eric Zahler and Richard Townsend have made substantial contributions to Loral over the years and have been instrumental in setting the company's current strategic direction in motion. We are extremely grateful for their numerous years of service to Loral," said Targoff.

Mr. Rein, 54, has been with

Loral and its predecessor companies since 1979. He is a certified public accountant, a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and a chartered accountant and member of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. Mr. Mastoloni, 43, joined Loral in 1997 after spending 11 years at J.P. Morgan Securities, where he was a senior banker in its media and telecommunications and global mergers and acquisitions groups. Coincident with these changes, John Capogrossi will be promoted to vice president and controller. Mr. Capogrossi, 54, joined Loral in 1988 and currently serves as executive director of financial planning and analysis. ■

MEASAT to provide Antrix with Ku-Band capacity

MEASAT Satellite Systems and ANTRIX Corporation Limited ("Antrix"), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organization ("ISRO"), announced the signing of an agreement for the leasing of Ku-Band capacity on the MEASAT-3 satellite.

Under the agreement, Antrix will lease eight Ku-band transponders on MEASAT-3, with an option to increase the number subsequently. The transponders will be used by Antrix to support the launch and development of a commercial new Direct-to-Home (DTH) TV platform in India.

"Taking into account the increasing demand for transponders in India, ISRO has strived to provide additional capacity both through INSAT satellites and through other satellites. Thirty-six transponders have been added in the last eight months through INSAT-4B and INSAT-4CR. In order to fill the gap in the demand, ISRO has also been adding transponders to the INSAT system by leasing capacity from other regional partners from time to time," said K.R. Sridhara Murthy, Executive Director, Antrix.

"We have been working with Antrix over a number of years and are delighted to extend this cooperation supporting Antrix with the provision of capacity on the MEASAT-3 satellite for the development of the Indian DTH market," said Paul Brown-Kenyon, COO, MEASAT. "We look forward to future cooperation with ISRO and Antrix."





Pay-TV piracy tops US\$1.5 billion for 2007

HONG KONG

In the latest survey of revenue leakage over the last 12 months to the regional pay-TV industry, conducted by the Cable & Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia (CASBAA) and Standard Chartered Bank, the losses are conservatively estimated to stand at US\$1.54 billion, as compared to US\$1.13 billion in 2006.

While the China market remains uncharted territory for the annual estimates, this year the newly developing pay-TV market in Pakistan has been added to the calculations, with losses that stand at US\$110 million. Estimates for Pakistan's unauthorised market show 4.6 million pirated cable-TV subscriptions in a market with some 345,000 legitimate subscriptions to pay-TV services.

Excluding Pakistan, the regional figure stands at US\$1.43 billion, up US\$300million, representing a 26 percent increase in total revenues compared to 2006.

The cost of pay-TV piracy in Hong Kong for 2007 has decreased by 15 percent to US\$27.4 million (HK\$213.72 million), although the number of hacked connections remained unchanged. "The fall in the 'lost revenue' number is attributed to the reduced cost of a pay-TV subscription in Hong Kong thanks to increased competition in the market," said Simon Twiston Davies, the CEO of CASBAA.

Meanwhile, a large part of the rise in total revenue losses for 2007 can be attributed to a 20 percent US dollar re-alignment against the Indian rupee. "Nevertheless, the India pay-TV market is the most distorted in Asia thanks to what can only be characterised as structurally-based revenue leakage," said Twiston Davies.

According to CASBAA, India is a market with 73 million pay-TV connections, yet it suffers from heavy-handed government regulation which, in turn, has created a debilitating lack of investment in infrastructure. India's

pay-TV revenue leakage reached a massive US\$985 million in net losses in 2007, an increase of 44 percent over 2006.

While the rest of the world is benefiting from digital roll-outs, Indian consumers have no opportunity to enjoy these fruits. "The systemic shortfall in analogue revenues from local cable operators is a major part of the problem," said Twiston Davies.

The most positive news in the survey, conducted by CASBAA in collaboration with the Creative Industries Division of Standard Chartered bank, is a dramatic fall in the number of illegal connections to pay-TV channels in Vietnam, where the value of industry losses has fallen from US\$38 million in 2006 to US\$10 million this year.

"The improvement is almost exclusively thanks to the removal of pirated international channels from the line-up offered by Vietnamese operator VTC," said Lee Beasley, Head of Media and Entertainment of Standard Chartered Bank. "The Government of Vietnam is clearly moving to fulfill its international trade commitments and listening to its own legitimate industry. This is great news, and we hope attention to this issue continues."

The 2007 survey of pay-TV piracy in Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, Macau and this year's addition, Pakistan highlights the impact of pay-TV signal theft and unlicensed pay-TV operators on regional economies amid new and challenging technological developments.

"The pay-TV piracy situation in most of the big markets in the region needs to be seriously addressed, not just by the industry but also by government," said Beasley. "Nonetheless, the fact that legitimate paid subscriptions are seeing an average 10 percent growth is a positive sign of the vast potential for the Asia Pacific pay-TV industry."

The report also highlights

that at least US\$213 million is being lost in unpaid tax revenues across the region this year.

Meanwhile, in 2007, CASBAA has continued to lobby governments and has extended legal actions against commercial distributors of unauthorised signals in public venues in Hong Kong and against pirate operators in the Philippines. The Hong Kong actions have been successfully concluded while the issues in the Philippines remain in court.

With 1.32 million unauthorised connections, Thailand continues to suffer annual piracy losses in the range of US\$180 million, the second largest dollar loss in the region.

CASBAA notes that, despite a slight improvement in the approach to intellectual property rights by some cable operators in the Thai provinces, there has been a disturbing growth of an emerging and important phenomenon, that of illegal Internet-based card-sharing (via remote servers) for Direct to Home (DTH) services.

"This is a relatively new and sophisticated technical hack that boosts the vulnerability of DTH services to piracy. This needs to be watched carefully and highlights the need for industry vigilance and continued investment in technical protection supported by stringent legal sanctions," said Twiston Davies. ■

MEASAT to distribute the VOOM HD Channel

VOOM HD Networks, Ascent Media and MEASAT Satellite Systems have announced the signing of an agreement to distribute the VOOM HD channel across Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Africa.

A pioneer in HD television, VOOM HD Networks features the largest suite of HD content in the world. The VOOM HD channel—available as a 24/7 feed, delivered in 1080i format high-definition with Dolby Digital 5.1 audio delivering six channels of surround sound—offers a premier line-up of top-quality HD programming on such topics as adventure travel, fashion, luxury lifestyle, art, live concerts, action sports and video gaming.

"With the Asian market at a tipping point for HDTV adoption, the demand for compelling and high-quality HD programming has grown exponentially," said Glenn Oakley, VOOM's Senior Vice President, Global Operations & Business Development. "We developed our global channel to help fill this void, and MEASAT and Ascent Media—both forward-thinking companies—offer the perfect vehicle with which to do so."

"Ascent Media is pleased to provide VOOM HD with the distribution services from our facility in Singapore," said Wee Way Kiat, Managing Director, Ascent Media Network Services Asia.

"Our collaboration with MEASAT, a major satellite operator in Asia, enables us to extend our HD expertise and services to VOOM HD and other international broadcasters looking to launch their HD services across Asia."

"MEASAT is honoured to be selected as the Asia-Pacific satellite operator to distribute the VOOM HD channel across the region," said Terry Bleakley, MEASAT's Vice President – Sales & Marketing. "The recently launched MEASAT-3 satellite, to be joined next year by MEASAT-1R, provides an ideal platform for the expansion of VOOM HD's business into the region."



AsiaSat announces new AsiaSat 3S technology platform

HONG KONG

Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited has announced a full transponder C-band MCPC (Multiple Channels per Carrier) technology platform to provide video, audio, data and IP based broadcast services on AsiaSat 3S at AsiaSat's Tai Po Earth Station in Hong Kong.

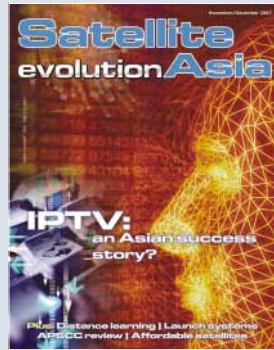
Through this new platform, AsiaSat will provide a one-stop package to broadcasters irrespective of their locations. With its partners in the industry, AsiaSat can now offer space segment, optical fibre, downlink, uplink and other value added services such as playout and conditional access from Hong Kong onto AsiaSat 3S.

This is a multi-client platform for broadcast customers to deliver their services in standard definition or high definition at full

power of the transponder. "Our strategy is to offer a portfolio of broadcast products and services to meet the growing demands of video distribution and contribution in this region. The launch of

a new platform on AsiaSat 3S, one of the world's most watched satellites is the first step to capitalise on our assets and expertise. This platform will complement our existing MCPC plat-

forms that are operated either directly by our Tai Po Earth Station in Hong Kong or by our partners throughout the region," said Peter Jackson, Chief Executive Officer of AsiaSat. ■



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SingTel to set a new benchmark in maritime education

SINGAPORE

SingTel is collaborating with the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) and Globe Wireless to set up a maritime satellite communications centre, called SatCom@SMA.

The first of its kind in Asia-Pacific, the facility is fitted with state-of-the-art equipment to demonstrate real-time broadband communications – between shipping vessels and their HQ offices on land – via satellite.

This is made possible with a 'live' SingTel 1.5-metre C-band stabilised satellite antenna which has been installed on the rooftop of the Academy, creating a new icon in the Singapore Polytechnic campus. Since its introduction into the market last year, this antenna has been commercially deployed on more than ten shipping vessels to date.

Mr Titus Yong, SingTel's Vice President of Satellite, said: "As Asia Pacific's largest and most experienced satellite operator with more than 35 years behind us, SingTel is committed to developing and shaping the maritime industry.

"SatCom@SMA will enable students to learn about the latest in satellite communications technology and gain valuable practical experience to complement their classroom theory lessons."

The half-a-million Singapore dollar SatCom@SMA is equipped with SingTel's innovative maritime communication applications, as well as high-speed always-on broadband Internet connectivity via satellite. Students can now have a firsthand experience of the innovative applications offered by SingTel that aid customers in the smooth running of a ship, helping them improve business productivity and their competitive edge.

Offered under the '@SingTel' brand, these applications were developed in collaboration with Globe Wireless. These include remote surveillance, real-time

remote fleet monitoring, downloads of coloured weather forecast charts and also electronic submissions of regulatory forms such as Notice of Arrival and Departure (NOAD) at foreign ports.

Mr Yong said that in the past, maritime communication was limited to low-speed or narrowband connectivity, which meant seafarers were essentially cut-off from the rest of the world if not for voice, fax and telex.

"However, SingTel's broadband satellite services have enabled a range of modern applications such as email, Internet access and VoIP calls. We want to help the seafarers maintain close contact with friends and families even while at sea, offering them the same kind of user experience that they have at home.

"Crew welfare is critical in today's context to attract and retain talent in the maritime sector – especially the next generation of seafarers who are better edu-

cated and more technology-savvy," he said.

New course module on maritime satellite communications

SMA, SingTel, Globe Wireless and Inmarsat have also developed a brand new maritime satellite communications module to be included in SMA's syllabus, which will be offered to both full-time and part-time students. This module offers practical experience in the use of satellite communication systems and applications for ships.

Students will also undertake industrial training programmes on maritime business administration and development.

Thanks to SingTel satellite services, SMA can now also offer online distance e-learning. Seafarers can then continue their academic studies even when they are at sea. Students save valuable time, and are able to complete their studies sooner. Interactive multimedia brings vitality to online learning programmes, which include courses

like the Certificate of Competency (COC).

Mr Yong said: "We aim to accelerate innovation in the maritime sector by bringing together some of the biggest players in the industry. I am pleased that SingTel is playing a key role in helping to rejuvenate the maritime industry."

SingTel's satellite services

Mail@SingTel

Mail@SingTel is an email software specially designed for maritime communications that has the capability to transmit over a small satellite bandwidth or over an "always-on" broadband connection.

Mail@SingTel is built-in with functionality managed by shipping companies and ship captains for making email more secure and cost effective.

Locator@SingTel

Locator@SingTel provides immediate visual access of the position of the company's fleet of vessels and displays the his-

CapRock Communications expands into Australia

CapRock Communications, a leading global satellite communications provider, has expanded its international presence into Perth, Australia. The expansion extends CapRock's turnkey managed services to energy, maritime and mining customers operating in the region. The Australian facility includes a regional support centre to provide local service and support.

To lead CapRock's continued growth within the region, CapRock has appointed Ian Ford as General Manager of South East Asia. Ford moves into this role from his former position as CapRock's Managing Director, responsible for operations in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. In this new role, Ford will manage CapRock's strategy and growth for Australia, Indonesia and the Asia-Pacific region.

This new appointment highlights CapRock's commitment to deliver consistent service around the world and furthers the company's position as a leading global provider.

"The expansion allows us to become even closer to our customers and further meet their needs," said CapRock General Manager, South East Asia, Ian Ford. "When customers choose CapRock, they expect a level of service and support that is second to none. That's why our customers depend on us and we are dedicated to fulfilling that responsibility, wherever that may be."

CapRock's Australia facility serves as a local sales office and support centre, providing a base of operations for installation, operation and other support services. Additionally, the site includes a teleport facility for landing and interconnecting customers' voice and data traffic with networks in-country and around the world.

"The expansion into Australia is a testament to CapRock's promise that we will meet our customers wherever their operations may take them," continued Ford.

"We strive day in and day out to deliver to customers exceptionally high-quality communications and we look forward to providing them with that same level of service they've come to expect from us elsewhere."



torical tracking of every ship's movement. Locator@SingTel application gathers and displays the ship's name, call sign, Universal time and date, exact latitude and longitude, heading and speed of the ship.

Weather@SingTel

Weather@SingTel application allows the vessels to download coloured weather forecast charts on-demand for different regions of the oceans. The key weather data includes surface pressure, wind speed and direction, fronts, sea surface temperature, currents, ice information, wave heights, gulf stream, swell conditions and tropical storm information.

GlobeForms for SingTel

GlobeForms for SingTel is an application which is a simple yet power packed that supports the operations of today's ships that require large amounts of reports, form filling, data flow between ship and shore, and information

storage such as crew data. Notice of Arrival & Departure (NOAD) forms from various port authorities are available to enable efficient ship and port operations with better security screening in place.

Voice-over-IP provides the capability for voice communication over internet to another VoIP user or to any GSM mobile phone users or fixed line telephone users.

This new technology for voice communications provides shipping companies with substantial cost savings who have otherwise been used to paying high charges for voice calling from vessels.

GSM On-Board Vessels provides seamless connectivity via personal mobile phones to both passengers and crew onboard the cruise ships, ferries and other vessels worldwide. The solution enables cell phone coverage by installing and operating the ship-borne base station network, linking the vessel with

"As Asia Pacific's largest and most experienced satellite operator with more than 35 years behind us, SingTel is committed to developing and shaping the maritime industry"

public networks via the satellite. Separately, Maritime Communications Partner operates its mobile services via roaming agreements with cellular operators throughout the world.

Web browsing provides the vessels with access to ready information for business and home news.

For the crew onboard the vessels, this is a strong selling point to recruit and retain the next generation of seafarers in today's "Always Connected World".

World conference services allow conferencing across geo-

graphical boundaries.

E-Surveillance capability is made possible with the integration of remote wireless IP video surveillance camera and maritime broadband solution. Shipping companies can have real-time view of the ship operations and more importantly better ability to cope with emergency needs such as Tele-medicine, detecting potential fires, or even lookout for piracy at sea. Other areas include the capability to help the seafarers with remote assistance if the onboard crew is unable to cope with such emergencies. ■

VSAT ANTENNA TVRO SYSTEM

- Reliable Communications
- Rapid Communications
- Remote Communications

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ITU defines the future of mobile communications

SWITZERLAND

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly took a decision of global importance to include WiMax-derived technology in the framework of the IMT-2000 set of standards. This agreement paves the way for the deployment of a range of voice, data, and multimedia services to both stationary and mobile devices. Significantly, it opens the door to mobile Internet, catering to demand in both urban and rural markets.

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-07) formally recognized technology derived from IEEE 802.16 by incorporating it as the sixth terrestrial IMT-2000 radio interface. This is the first addition to IMT-2000 since the original five were adopted years ago as part of the 3G radio standards being used globally and significantly pushes the technological envelope of IMT-2000 capabilities.

IMT-2000 - "International Mobile Telecommunications" - is a global standard defined by ITU in a set of interdependent ITU Recommendations, which include the specifications for the radio interfaces of advanced wireless communications systems such as 3G mobile.

An initial application

An initial application for the IMT-2000 Advanced standard was made at the ITU-R WP8F meeting in Kobe, Japan, in January this year.

The adoption of the latest radio interface was the culmination of tireless effort among administrations, industry and ITU experts.

"It gives me great satisfaction to observe that the ITU Radiocommunication Sector continues to be responsive to the most pressing needs of the wireless industry in the deployment of innovative technological solutions," said Valery Timofeev, Director of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau. "The successful approval of the two new Resolutions and four draft Rec-

ommendations dealing with IMT technologies represents a pinnacle in the recent technical achievements of the Sector."

WiMax extends access to global population

"WiMAX technology currently has the potential to reach 2.7 billion people," said Ron Resnick, president of the WiMAX Forum. "Today's announcement expands the reach to a significantly larger global population."

The new technology will facilitate delivery of broadband wireless services at lower cost and include multiple wireless broadband Internet services, including VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol).

The specific terminology of the IEEE 802.16 standard in ITU-R M.1457 Recommendation is 'IMT-2000 OFDMA TDD WMAN'.

Roger Marks, Chairman of the IEEE 802.16 Working Group on Broadband Wireless Access, said, "I am immensely gratified that the international community, through ITU, has recognized the significance of the IEEE 802.16 WirelessMAN standard."

Proposals to the forthcoming World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) starting next week in Geneva that will be requesting additional spectrum for the deployment of the IMT 3G-type systems worldwide will take into account the new IMT-2000 OFDMA TDD WMAN standards derived from the IEEE 802.16 mobile component.

Future direction of radiocommunication

The Radiocommunication Assembly closed today in Geneva after deliberating for a week on new directions in radio communications.

Held every three to four years, RA-07 deliberated the future direction of radio communications, including a new Study Group structure and the establishment of a work plan for the study groups of ITU's Radiocommunication Sector.

RA-07 was chaired by Mr Bruce Gracie (Canada) and assisted by six vice-presidents: Mr R. Beaird (United States), Mr E. Sestacov (Moldova), Mr M. Matsumoto (Japan), Mr N. Kisrawi (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr R. Liebler (Germany) and Mr I. Jazaïry (Algeria). Over 600 participants attended the Assembly.

Discussions covered several areas.

The working methods and procedural issues of the Study Groups with review of the ITU-R Resolutions that describe the structure, working methods and work programme of the ITU-R Study Groups

Technical issues which included International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) for which two new draft ITU-R Resolutions were approved relating to future studies on IMT

Emergency communications and disaster relief: Since the tsunami of December 2004, attention focused on increasing the effectiveness of telecommunications in emergency situations and in responding to disaster

relief. Two new Resolutions were approved placing on a sound footing the activities of the Study Groups on this topic

New or revised ITU-R Resolutions were approved, covering areas such as spectrum management, radio-frequency sharing systems, regulatory and procedural matters and new radio standards.

Among the important decisions taken at this year's Assembly include refining many of the basic Resolutions describing the working methods of the Study Groups.

In particular, Resolution ITU-R 1 been brought up-to-date to reflect current practices within the Sector and Bureau:

- Study Group 1: Spectrum Management
- Study Group 2: Radiowave Propagation
- Study Group 5: Terrestrial Services
- Study Group 6: Broadcasting Service
- Study Group 7: Science Services
- Coordination Committee for Vocabulary - CCV ■

ABS and NET 25 sign agreement

Asia Broadcast Satellite (ABS) and NET 25 have signed a contract to broadcast NET 25 on ABS-1 Southern Beam Ku-Band MCPC platform and for Cable TV and IPTV distributions.

NET 25 is a free TV channel dedicated to Filipinos, focusing on informative and educational shows. It offers an array of programming content from news and information, modern living, arts and culture, modern entertainment and information technology.

Tom Choi, CEO of ABS said, "We are excited to have NET 25 on board our growing bouquet of Free-to-Air TV channels on the ABS-1 Southern Beam DTH platform. Located at 75°E, ABS-1 satellite offers the widest, high-power, Ku-Band coverage from Central Europe to the Far East. We look forward to working with NET 25 to expand their distribution and services into new markets."

"The ABS-1 satellite's extensive Ku-Band footprint can be received on dishes as small as 60cm, so we can offer more affordable options to our consumers," said Edgardo Villanueva, President of Eagle Broadcasting Corporation. "We look forward to a long-term relationship with ABS, allowing us to further increase our penetration into key markets and giving us the opportunity to enhance our services."



Satellite broadband access technology recognised by Frost and Sullivan

BELGIUM

Newtec has won the prestigious Frost and Sullivan European Product Innovation Award, for the company's Satellite Triple Play System (Sat3Play). The award recognises Newtec's extensive work in combining industry standards, to ultimately create the most innovative and successful product available.

Sat3Play is a cost effective, two-way satellite multimedia broadband system, made up of an intelligent combination of various standards including DVB-S2, DVB-RCS, SATMODE and TCP/IP. It allows optimised delivery of video and audio services, fast internet access and VoIP telephony, to both businesses and consumers in areas where no terrestrial infrastructure is currently in place.

"This award recognises the success of Sat3Play and positions Newtec as a truly forward looking company, working to shape the future of satellite communications," said Serge Van Herck CEO at Newtec. "We are incredibly proud of the strong emphasis placed on research and development here at Newtec and these strengths are no more evident than in the development of Sat3Play. We worked hard to integrate the strengths of the SATMODE standard with elements of DVB-RCS in order to create a very robust, efficient and low-cost technology.

"Innovation and development is especially important in the current industry climate where satellite companies are facing strong competition from terrestrial providers, both in terms of performance and cost. Winning this award demonstrates that Newtec's products are highly competitive in both these areas," concluded Van Herck.

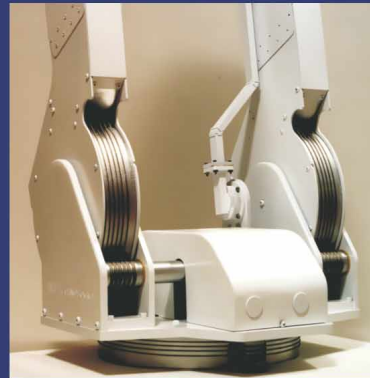
Sat3Play is part of a broad portfolio of Newtec products, for which it has built up a strong reputation for exceptional customer service and product quality. Its range includes high-speed DVB and DVB S2 modulators,

DVB RCS-based IP Broadband Access Networks, digital TV and radio distribution networks and interactive Satmode TV networks.

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