



CASBAA Sports TV Forum sets the pace for China pay-TV market

CHINA

The potential business opportunities for sports television in China were highlighted during the August 24th CASBAA Sports TV Forum in Beijing.

With the theme "All-win with the Olympics", the Forum was hosted by the State Administration of Radio, Film & Television (SARFT) and co-organized by the Cable & Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia (CASBAA) and China International Television Corporation (CITVC), the commercial arm of state broadcaster CCTV.

Over 300 representatives of Chinese and European sports bodies, along with global sports TV networks and sports management teams participated in the Forum, exchanging insights on how sports TV can benefit the broadcasting industry and economic development within

China, as well as the synergies between sports leagues and pay-TV.

With speakers drawn from the Beijing Olympic Broadcasting, SARFT, CCTV and CITVC, the Forum was keynoted by Jiang Heping, Managing Director of CCTV Sports Centre, followed by Jiang Xiaoyu, Executive Vice President of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG), Lee Won-Kun, Executive Vice President of KBS of Korea, Zhou Yi, General Manager of Office of Olympic Affairs of China Mobile and Richard Dorfman, General Manager of the Department of Media and Broadcast of A1 GP.

"The broadcasts of Beijing 2008 Olympics will be the first time for many people around the globe to see modern China and

much better understand the country, its people and its culture," said Simon Twiston Davies, Chief Executive Officer of CASBAA.

"There is no doubt that the broadcasting industry is a strong platform for any company to build brand awareness and reach the target audience in a short time. We believe the demand for expanded Olympics coverage will drive demand for pay-TV and serve as a launch pad for the industry."

At the conclusion of the Fo-

rum, Marcel Fenez, the Chairman of CASBAA, thanked organizer CITVC as well as the official Host, SARFT.

"We wish the Games a great success in China. Through our third annual forum, we hope to further promote the sports TV industry, creating a win-win situation for both the TV sector and other business opportunities in China, such as building up the brand awareness for overseas sports leagues and creating a new brand of sports product in China market," said Fenez. ■

Comtech EF Data introduces media router with unprecedented versatility

Comtech EF Data Corporation has introduced a new Media Router platform, the Media Router 6000. In a single platform, the Media Router 6000 functions as a satellite receiver, combiner, filter and video to IP transcoder.

As a receiver, the Media Router 6000 enables the reception of Digital Video Broadcast – Satellite (DVB-S) and DVB-S2 transport streams and IP-based multimedia (video, audio and data) content to be delivered over satellite or high-speed ASI links and distributed to remote devices. Supporting multi-protocol encapsulation (MPE) and Moving Picture Expert Group-2 (MPEG-2) TS (Transport Stream), the Media Router 6000 facilitates standard data broadcasts, as well as the transport of MPEG-2 video service over IP.

The product also functions as a combiner/multiplexer, which allows content received from satellite and local ASI to be multiplexed in to a single MPEG-2 transport stream and output over the ASI or Ethernet interface. In addition, the Media Router can filter content by static program identifiers (PIDS) from one or both streams before multiplexing.

The Media Router can also transcode video to IP received on the satellite and/or ASI input and output an IP stream capable of being decoded by a standard IP set top box or IP decoder.

The Media Router 6000 provides ease of use, flexibility and reliable operation, featuring an embedded central processing unit, an eCOS operating system and support for 1:1 redundancy. It offers a variety of configuration and management options from the front panel to web-based interfaces.

SkyWave IsatM2M service

CANADA

SkyWave Mobile Communications, the global leader for two-way satellite telematics products and services, has announced the availability of the SkyWave IsatM2M service and DMR-800D terminal, offering new features and advanced capabilities to enable solution provider's applications with greater responsiveness.

By combining reliable, global, two-way communications with large message payload, low message latency and low power consumption, customers can enhance the performance of their existing SkyWave D+ applications and create new applications to enter new markets. This robust feature set is not available with any burst data satellite service on the market today, making SkyWave IsatM2M the optimal choice for applications worldwide.

Based on enhancements to the trusted SkyWave D+ service, the new SkyWave IsatM2M service was developed to meet increasing market demand for dependable two-way communications with seamless global coverage.

The new DMR-800D terminal represents the latest devel-

opment of SkyWave's field-proven DMR product series, purpose-built for use with the SkyWave IsatM2M service.

SkyWave IsatM2M enhances existing applications to yield better management, visibility, control and security of critical assets.

Typical SkyWave IsatM2M applications include a number of things such as global intermodal container tracking, complex SCADA monitoring with large message payload and robust two-way text messaging applications for advanced logistics and force deployment.

"SkyWave IsatM2M builds on existing customer's knowledge and experience with SkyWave D+, protecting their investment while offering a host of new features," says Peter Rossiter, CTO for SkyWave. "We will continue to support our dependable D+ service and field-proven DMR-200 D-series terminals and with these new offerings, customers benefit from more choice and flexibility for their applications. They will gain access to markets which were previously outside of their portfolio—all without adding significant costs." ■



Radyne Corporation announces SkyWire

US

Radyne Corporation unveiled its new MDX420 Satellite Network Gateway at the International Broadcasting Convention in Amsterdam.

The revolutionary MDX420 applies Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) technology to provide full mesh, hub and spoke and hybrid network architectures.

The MDX420 can also operate in single channel per carrier mode — all on the same platform. This functionality makes the MDX420 the world's first "cross over" modem.

Designed specifically for small to mid sized networks, SkyWire™ is a scaleable, extremely efficient, easy to use, low cost TDMA network platform designed for IP network LAN-LAN connectivity. The SkyWire™ platform can be used in a "True"

full mesh configuration allowing for hubless operation without the need for high stability clocking, complex Management and Control (M&C) or expensive central bandwidth allocation servers. SkyWire™ also fills the much needed sub-300 node hub and

spoke network architecture by offering it's users a low cost hub solution that allows smaller networks the ability to begin a hub and spoke network at a fraction of the cost of a conventional hub and spoke network. Hub prices begin at under \$10,000.

"We are extremely excited about the MDX420, and the capabilities it will provide to our customers," said Myron Wagner, Radyne's CEO. "We are gratified with the high level of interest in the new product and began booking orders in August." ■

MEASAT-3 to support Solar Entertainment's international expansion plans

MEASAT Satellite Systems has signed an agreement with Solar Entertainment Corporation ("Solar") to extend the term of their current agreement with MEASAT, while transferring their services from MEASAT-1 to MEASAT-3. With more than 600 cable head-ends currently receiving their channels in the Philippines, Solar will now extend distribution into international markets. Solar's entertainment and sports bouquet comprises Jack TV, ETC, 2nd Avenue, Basketball TV, Crime and Suspense, Solar Sports and terrestrial network RPN-9's "Pare" primetime block.

"Since 2004, MEASAT has proudly served Solar for the distribution of its channels via the MEASAT-1 satellite," said Terry Bleakley, MEASAT's Vice President – Sales & Marketing. "We are delighted with the continuation of this partnership to support Solar's expansion plans into new markets through the extensive coverage offered by MEASAT-3 over Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Eastern Europe."

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Please visit us at TAITRONICS AUTUMN from 9 to 13 OCT. 2007 in Taipei, Taiwan



Boeing builds first GPS IIF satellite

US

The Boeing Company has successfully assembled and integrated all flight hardware onto the first Global Positioning System (GPS) IIF satellite.

GPS IIF will bring new capabilities to the GPS constellation such as full onboard encrypted military code, a new civil signal, crosslink enhancements, signal power increases and longer design life.

"GPS IIF is on track because of the team's stellar application of back-to-basics program management," said Howard Chambers, Vice President and General Manager of Boeing Space and Intelligence Systems. "The performance of these subsystems is a testament to our pro-

cess-based management and to our lean manufacturing commitment, and GPS IIF fully meets the specifications set forth by our US Air Force customer and places us firmly on track to deliver the satellite for the first launch in 2008."

Boeing is building 12 GPS Block IIF satellites under contract from the Navstar GPS Wing at the Space and Missile Systems Centre in Los Angeles.

The satellite's sophisticated L-band payload will include new hardware that serves the civil user community. Designed to enhance non-safety-critical applications, the signals will improve aviation and other precision safety signals.

Technicians are preparing GPS IIF for key dynamic environmental tests designed to confirm its structural design and mechanical integrity. They are attaching the solar panels and configuring the satellite before it undergoes several physical tests.

The tests will help ensure robust mission assurance with an emphasis on product integrity and mission success.

Each GPS IIF satellite will complete acoustic stress tests using high-powered speakers to verify that the spacecraft can tolerate the high sound pressure levels during launches; mechanical tests similar to a separation test to make sure it disconnects

cleanly and correctly from the launch vehicle; tests of its deployable mechanisms such as the solar wings and the antenna to ensure that they release correctly on-orbit; and finally, GPS IIF will undergo thermal vacuum testing to confirm its ability to operate in a vacuum and under the extreme temperatures of space.

Working closely with the US Air Force to deliver new, advanced GPS capabilities to the military, civil government and the general public, Boeing will continue the GPS Wing's track record of on-orbit performance and constellation sustainment to guarantee GPS availability to users worldwide. ■

IPSTAR to enter Malaysian market in Q4

THAILAND

Shin Satellite Public Company Limited ("SATTEL"), Asia's leading commercial satellite operator and the operator of the IPSTAR satellite broadband system, announced that the Company has signed a Cooperation Agreement with TIME dotCom Berhad ("TIME"), Malaysia's leading Telecommunications solutions provider, to deploy IPSTAR broadband satellite services in Malaysia within Q4 2007. According to the scope of the Agreement, the IPSTAR gateway will be located in TIME's existing facilities in Kuala Lumpur. Currently, TIME provides broadband solutions with a complete and comprehensive range of services to both domestic and international markets. IPSTAR will enhance TIME to expand its broadband services to serve the rural and underserved markets in Malaysia targeting the government's Universal Service Provision (USPs) as well as other market segments such as Corporate and Retail.

In addition to providing services to TIME, the IPSTAR service through TIME will also be marketed to other service providers in Malaysia as well.

Dato' Baharum Salleh, Managing Director of TIME dotCom Bhd said, "This collaboration will enable TIME to provide broadband services in all parts of Malaysia regardless of whether they are in the rural or urban areas of Malaysia. It will also support the government's initiatives especially with the newly announced National Budget 2008 to bring Internet connectivity in the underserved areas."

"TIME coming into this agreement shows that we are focused on enhancing connectivity to ensure that a larger population of Malaysians will have access to the Internet."

"We are pleased and honoured to be partnering with TIME dotCom to provide IPSTAR services in Malaysia. TIME is one of the leading telecommunications providers in Malaysia with local expertise and experience in providing telecommunications services in the country. We believe that the IPSTAR service will enhance TIME's existing offerings to the market with cost-effective broadband satellite services that will reach every part of Malaysia," said Mr. Pradeep Unni, Shin Satellite's Vice President of In-

ternational Sales.

Mr. Unni added, "As part of the Agreement, we will begin to import and install the IPSTAR gateway to be located at TIME's existing facilities in Kuala Lumpur and plan to start providing services by Q4 2007. We are very excited about the Malaysian market as we see there is a high demand for IPSTAR type serv-

ices in both the government and private sectors."

Currently, IPSTAR provides full nationwide broadband satellite services in 8 countries with 11 gateways including: Australia, Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, New Zealand, and Vietnam. IPSTAR will continue to expand its service coverage to the rest of Asia-Pacific. ■

iDirect names new CEO

Vision Technologies Systems, Inc. (VT Systems) has announced the appointment of Mary Cotton as Chief Executive Officer of its subsidiary, iDirect Inc.

Ms Cotton, an experienced high-tech leader and growth strategist, succeeded current Chief Executive John Kealey effective 19 September 2007.

The appointment signals iDirect's deep commitment to expanding its current industry leadership position into new global markets and industry applications.

Ms Cotton brings more than 18 years of technology leadership, creating and driving growth in previous roles as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in various organizations.

She currently serves as Senior Vice President with SAP, the world's largest business application software company. Cotton joined SAP in 2005 after she orchestrated the sale of Frictionless Commerce, a provider of supplier relationship management software, where she served as CEO.



Arqiva selected to link Rugby World Cup 2007 to TV3 New Zealand

FRANCE

Arqiva is providing New Zealand TV channel TV3 (TV3 NZ) with secure and dedicated infrastructure to transmit coverage of the whole of the Rugby World Cup 2007. TV3 NZ is working with Arqiva in France to manage production and transmission of the international sports event, which is being hosted primarily in France between 7 September and 20 October. Arqiva's solution will provide the necessary broadcast infrastructure to tie together the whole operation between Paris, London and Auckland.

Arqiva will be providing TV3 with use of a permanent fibre link to transfer the daily programmes from the PTC (Paris Television Centre) studios located in the heart of Paris to the Arqiva Teleport in Paris-Boulogne. The

programmes will then be sent to TV3 in London via a cross-Channel fibre link and then managed by TV3 for transmission to New Zealand via their own network.

"We will be transmitting over 240 hours worth of programming to TV3 viewers in New Zealand directly from the Rugby World Cup 2007. We're delighted that Arqiva was able to respond to our requirements in terms of reliability so that we can provide the best service to our viewers in a cost-effective way", says John McDonald, Head of Sport at TV3 New Zealand. "Arqiva's technical expertise and reputation for excellent reliability coupled with reasonable price will be key to the successful transmission over the six weeks of the tournament."

"This collaboration with TV3

New Zealand allows us to demonstrate our technical know-how in supporting major international sports events and to mark Arqiva as a successful global player in this market," comments Denis Chambon, General Manager of

Arqiva in France. "The Rugby World Cup is such an important part of people's lives, particularly in countries such as New Zealand, that we're proud to be supporting TV3 in bringing this great sporting event to its viewers." ■

ILS declares launch anomaly

Khronichev and International Launch Services regret to announce the failure of the Proton launch vehicle to put the JCSAT-11 satellite into proper orbit for JSAT Corporation.

A Russian State Commission is in the process of determining the reasons for the anomaly. ILS will release details when data becomes available. A copy of the official statement released by Khronichev, which manufactures the Proton, will also be made available upon translation. In parallel with the State Commission, ILS will form its own Failure Review Oversight Board. The FROB will review the commission's final report and corrective action plan, in accord with US and Russian government export control regulations.



Designer & Manufacturer of Satellite Antenna



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