Level 421 brings down capacity costs with XipLink

GERMANY

Level 421 GmbH, a Germany-based satellite internet provider has selected XipLink's optimization technology to be implemented for a government SCPC VSAT network, providing mission critical service while optimizing TCP traffic at the lowest possible cost.

With increased throughput of more than 40 percent end user experience is dramatically enhanced by making downloads quicker while also allowing for additional users over the same network.

Level 421 has extensive experience with optimization technologies and is a premier VSAT provider in Germany. Level 421 operates mission critical IP satellite networks to "AAA" rated government customers as well as oil and gas, and enterprise companies who have advanced network requirements in the fields of VOIP and VPN use. Level 421 chose XipLink's technology due to its ease of deployment and ability to integrate into these complex IP networks with no need to change even basic routing infrastructure. XipLink's single-box solution, which allows for the ability to add a software overlay for IPSec VPN to existing XipLink XA optimization appliances, was a critical factor in the decision.

The explosion in Satellite Internet usage has created an insatiable demand for bandwidth capacity. Advanced XipLink optimization technologies answer this demand by offering capabilities such as streaming compression, caching, Quality of Service shaping and many other benefits for network operations looking to reduce operating expenses, as well as wireless network users that simply want to increase performance.

XipLink's XA-Series appliances, range in scale from 2 Mbps and 50 connections for use in small office / home office locations, to redundant high performance systems operating at 155 Mbps and 30,000 simultaneous connections. XipLink appliances also support key value-added options such as a factory installed dynamic web cache, IPSec integrated security software and XiPix lossy compression for outbound web optimization.

"We are extremely excited to be implementing the XipLink technology for use in this network. The solution results in a significant performance gain for our government customer," said Mr. Markus Haut, General Manager of Level 421 GmbH. "The increased bandwidth utilization will provide superior efficiency and cost savings that will prove greatly beneficial."

"Level 421 has achieved tremendous success over the last few years by implementing innovative solutions that take advantage of new technologies to achieve excellent results for their customers," said Jack Waters, CEO of XipLink. "We are pleased to be working with such a respected and proven partner in the VSAT managed services marketplace."

Eurovision selects SES WORLD SKIES for global World Cup delivery

EUROPE

SES WORLD SKIES has signed agreements with Eurovision, a division of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), to distribute the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ to football fans around the world.

As part of the agreement, Eurovision has enlisted SES WORLD SKIES' NSS-5, NSS-806 and AMC-9 satellites to enable broadcasters across the globe to provide extensive coverage of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™. The NSS-5 spacecraft is expected to deliver the lion's share of World Cup football to audiences throughout North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. The hybrid C/Ku-band satellite was moved in February to its 340 degrees East orbital slot in preparation for the big event in South Africa, following the successful launches of NSS-9 and NSS-12 earlier last year.

NSS-806 will play an instrumental role in support of broadcasters' occasional use and reporting requirements from a variety of cities and towns hosting World Cup football matches. The AMC-9 satellite will deliver football action and analysis for the first time to viewers throughout Mexico. SES' teleport in Betzdorf, Luxembourg, will serve as Eurovision's primary downlink and backup uplink for the world feed ultimately distributed over NSS-5 and Eurovision's global fibre network. Eurovision will utilize the operator's teleport facility in Manassas, Virginia, for onward distribution of the World Cup coverage via NSS-806 for Latin America and AMC-9 for Mexico.

"We work closely with SES WORLD SKIES to bring top quality sports events to the world broadcasting community. SES has demonstrated it is a highly reliable partner in our mission to put the most prestigious sports programming exactly where broadcasters need it in a seamless, reliable and cost-effective way," states Stefan Kuerten, Director of Eurovision Operations. "SES WORLD SKIES consistently anticipates our broadcast and distribution needs and meets our challenges with strategic solutions that work effectively and globally", Kuerten added, referring to SES WORLD SKIES' repositioning of NSS-5 ahead of the 2010 World Cup.

"Our global sales team thoroughly understands what world class broadcasting organizations like Eurovision need to ensure success at the pinnacle of sporting events," said Samantha McCloskey, Vice President of Global Occasional Use and Special Events for SES WORLD SKIES. "The wonderful collaboration and trust which has been developed over many years between Eurovision and SES WORLD SKIES is something that we value deeply and are proud to have helped establish in our organization. It is that trust and mutual reliability that has provided the basis of our many successful special event operations around the world including Beijing, Vancouver, Tokyo, Brazil and Iraq," added McCloskey.

Orbital selected for Azerbaijan satellite project

Orbital Sciences Corporation has announced that it has signed a contract with International Relations and Accounting Center of The Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies (Ministry) of the Republic of Azerbaijan to design, build and deliver the Azerspace/Africasat-1a commercial communications satellite. The satellite will be based on Orbital's flight-proven STAR-2 platform and will generate approximately five kilowatts of payload power for 36 active transponders. The Azerspace/Africasat-1a satellite carries hybrid Ku and C-band payloads to provide services to Azerbaijan, Central Asia, Europe and Africa.

Orbit announces new contract award

ISRAEL

Orbit Technologies is to supply its systems for tracking low orbiting civilian imagery satellites to a leading Israeli satellite imaging company. This award further establishes Orbit's preeminence in the Israeli satellite tracking market, while underscoring the company's international role in this dynamic field. These LEO (Low Earth Orbit), high precision, high quality satellite tracking systems will be backed as part of the contract by Orbit's hallmark service and customer support.

Israel Adan, Executive VP, Sales and Marketing, says that, "With every additional contract won, in Israel or anywhere else in the world, we capitalize on the opportunity to further demonstrate that quality, flexibility, and precision in Orbit's products is matched by our dedication to service, technical support, and customer satisfaction." He goes on to add that, "With this contract, as we bolster our satellite tracking market position in Israel, we intend to continue to set supply chain timetable records as well."

Under this agreement, Orbit will supply two TTC LEO tracking antenna systems based on its AL-4018 digital system. The tracking antenna is 3m in diameter and operates on S-band frequency.

Eutelsat selects Thales Alenia Space to deliver W6A

Eutelsat Communications has selected Thales Alenia Space to build a 40-transponder Ku-band satellite enabling a 50% increase in capacity operated at its 21.5° East location in geostationary orbit. Scheduled for launch in third quarter 2012, the satellite will replace Eutelsat's W6 craft at a core neighbourhood anchored for data, professional video and government services across Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia.

Weighing in at five tonnes, the new satellite will be based on the Thales Alenia Space Spacebus C3 platform, with a scheduled in-orbit lifetime exceeding 15 years. It will be equipped with one broad footprint sweeping across Europe into North Africa and Central Asia, and two dedicated high-power beams to add increased flexibility for regional coverage of North Africa and the Middle East.

Commenting on the contract, Michel de Rosen, Eutelsat CEO said: "The combination of power, coverage and flexibility we provide at 21.5° East has enabled Eutelsat to steadily attract ongoing business at this location over 10 years. We have designed our new satellite to further unlock the potential of this sweet spot for data, professional video and government services and are delighted to entrust its construction to Thales Alenia Space, a longstanding industrial partner for Eutelsat."

Next generation AmosConnect enhances broadband connectivity for vessels

US

Stratos Global Corporation has announced the commercial availability of AmosConnect 8, the latest generation of its popular AmosConnect solution.

AmosConnect from Stratos integrates vessel and shore-based office applications. It is an easy-to-use, yet highly sophisticated application that seamlessly integrates email, fax, telex, GSM text, interoffice communication, and access for mobile personnel into a single messaging system.

AmosConnect 8 enhances new broadband IP-based maritime satellite services which include FleetBroadband, Iridium OpenPort and the VSAT solutions OceanVSAT and StratosITek. Integration with these broadband services enables users to control their sessions and ensure optimal airtime use directly from AmosConnect.

The AmosConnect 8 portal brings all ship-relevant data to one central information page. For example, the sending of reports and the receipt of weather updates and company news is achieved within the same interface.

With this new version, all service settings are remotely configurable from a central office. This functionality greatly reduces implementation and support time.

With AmosConnect 8, Stratos expands upon its popular application by delivering StratosNet Accelerator, extended remote configuration, cost allocation and extended message filtering - in addition to enhancing its current features of email messaging, automatic file transfer and data synchronization. These improvements help ensure streamlined operations, cost efficiency and optimization of available bandwidth.

The new AmosConnect 8 optimizes the use of satellite airtime by automatically compressing and caching all transfers. AmosConnect 8 also supports all narrowband satellite connections. Stratos' new AmosConnect hub platform, featuring ultra-modern hardware technology, has been extensively tested and began operation this month.

Upgrading to AmosConnect 8 will be easy for the thousands of vessels that are using AmosConnect from Stratos for their daily communications. Nearly 20,000 AmosConnect from Stratos licenses have been issued and the service is used by more than 200,000 officers and crewmembers on vessels operated by Wallem Ship management, Dockendale Shipping and the Royal Netherlands Navy, among others. Stratos is the largest supplier of mobile satellite services to the maritime industry, with communications to more than 40,000 maritime terminals worldwide.

AmosConnect is one of the foundations of The Stratos Advantage, a range of value-added services that provides ship managers with optimal communications performance and cost efficiency.

Stratos President and CEO Jim Parm said, "AmosConnect 8 brings AmosConnect into the broadband era. Its modular, flexible design ensures it will meet both present and future maritime application requirements. It is the latest example of our ongoing efforts to improve crew welfare and business efficiency for ship managers and ship owners."

Hughes delivers satellite service for 'The Big Kick to Johannesburg '

As excitement for the 2010 FIFA World Cup gains momentum, followers of 'The Big Kick to Johannesburg' worldwide will be able to keep fully up-to-date with the charity project as it continues its exciting progress across Africa—thanks to services provided by the European operating unit of Hughes Network Systems, LLC (Hughes), the global leader in broadband satellite.

Supporting the "Ein Herz für Kinder"' (A Heart for Children) charity, which undertakes major relief projects in Africa, the Big Kick project is sponsored by HMI, German insurance giant Ergo Versicherung's subsidiary, and involves dribbling a football more than 10,500 kilometres from the company's Hamburg headquarters to Johannesburg over land, sea, and air.

"Just as with the Olympic Flame, the Big Kick football is travelling from Germany, the venue for the last World Cup in 2006, to this year's host nation, South Africa, on a journey taking 46 days and arriving 24 hours before the opening ceremony on 11 June," said Christopher Britton, Managing Director of Hughes Europe.

"We are proud to have been chosen by HMI to provide Inmarsat's BGAN (Broadband Global Area Network) satellite service and Hughes 9201 BGAN terminals as the only communications solution able to provide the quality and coverage it demanded for the African leg of the journey, now that the European leg has been completed. Major publicity events involving celebrity participants have been organised at each stage of the journey, with a short video of the daily progress made available to followers worldwide."

The Hughes-provided BGAN solution offers rugged yet easy-to-use connectivity in linking Africa with the rest of the world, sending regular pictures via Deutsche Telekom's Munich-based data centre, as the ball travels through Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, and South Africa.

Arabsat Badr-5 successfully launched

MIDDLE EAST

At 04.00 local time on the morning of June 4, (22.00 UTC June 3), ILS successfully launched a Proton M launch vehicle, utilizing a 5-burn Breeze M mission design from Pad 39 at Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan with the BADR-5 satellite on board.

The BADR-5 satellite is based on EADS Astrium's E3000 platform with a Thales Alenia Space supplied communications payload.

BADR-5 will be collocated with the BADR-4 and BADR-6 Direct-to-Home satellites at Arabsat 26 degrees East. BADR-5 will provide the highest level of service within the MENA region.

Khalid Balkheyour President & CEO of Arabsat stated that Arabsat is thankful for the successful launch of Badr - 5, which will operate in the exclusive Hot Spot of Arabsat 26° degrees east. He highlighted that BADR -5 will provide capacities for more than 700 TV channels, HDTV, 3D, telecom services including broadband in addition to providing a full in orbit backup for Arabsat fleet. Balkheyour added that on the 23rd of this month, Arabsat 5-A will be launched at its exclusive orbital position 30.5 degrees east, which covers the whole continent of Africa and large parts of Asia as well as the MENA region fully and distinctly.

atrexx launches triple service on AMOS-5i satellite

German satellite service provider atrexx has announced the launch of a trio of services aimed specifically at customers based in Africa, with additional coverage of the Middle East region. The C-band services will be delivered via Spacecom's AMOS-5i satellite, formerly Asiasat-2, that was leased to the operator to help relieve the issue of under capacity in the region. Through AMOS-5i, atrexx is taking a three-pronged approach, offering valuable services to those who previously may not have been able to find the capacity or the right price to fit their needs.

"We are delighted to be able to offer our customers in Africa a range of affordable services via the AMOS-5i satellite", said Markus Schäfer, Managing Director of atrexx. "Demand for satellite services in this particular region has been growing significantly and it is important that atrexx can provide our customers with the capacity and service offering they require, a price they can afford."

The trio of services includes SCPC and iSCPC services targeted at customers in need of corporate communication and Internet access from a service provider with European based hub. In addition, DVB-S2 and DVB-S2/SCPC services are available with Adaptive Coding and Modulation (ACM), for customers with a strong requirement for Internet backbone bandwidth such as Internet Service Providers (ISP) - both one-way and two-way services are offered.