



4G Global Update

PUBLISHED BY WCA'S GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (GDC)

TODAY'S HEADLINES

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Alvarion Earns USDA WiMAX Rural Development Acceptance

WCA member Alvarion announced that its 802.16e base stations received U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development acceptance, according to a company [press release](#). The acceptance covers the full RAN solution portfolio to include both micro and macro base stations, the variety of CPEs, antennas and mounting systems. Rural Utilities Service (RUS) acceptance and “Buy American” status from the USDA are required for operators requesting federal funds from the Rural Broadband Access Loan program for the purpose of purchasing and deploying broadband systems. From 2001 through 2007, RUS has provided almost \$6.5 billion in telecom grants, loans and loan guarantees for rural development. “Rural Development acceptance of a licensed WiMAX system is something the USDA has never done before,” said DigitalBridge CEO Kelley Dunne, who is also WCA Director and Chairman of the WCA’s Rural Broadband Committee. He continued: “Not only can 2.3 and 2.5 GHz operators across the U.S. now leverage the hundreds of millions of federal dollars available each year for rural broadband access, but they get to do it with the market’s benchmark WiMAX solution for these bands.” WCA’s *Rural Broadband Committee* is scheduled to convene by conference call at 2 p.m. (Eastern U.S. Time) on July 10. The agenda includes a planned name-change to the Emerging Markets Committee, with operator member reports on a major recent deployment and deal. To join the committee and call, contact WCA Liaison Neil Brandvold (Neil@wcai.com).

DragonWave Selected To Equip Sprint’s XOHM Network

WCA member DragonWave announced that Sprint has chosen DragonWave’s IP backhaul solutions for its XOHM WiMAX mobile broadband services in North America, according to a company [press release](#). DragonWave’s products will be deployed initially in the Baltimore/Washington and Chicago markets. Caroline Gabriel, research director at Rethink Research Associates, said: “Carriers no longer can allow backhaul bottlenecks to slow their mobile-broadband growth plans, so we are seeing heightened uptake for powerful IP backhaul solutions that allow for simple, cost-efficient network rollout.”

China And India Experiencing Fastest Telecom Growth

Telecom operators in China and India are growing much faster than their international rivals, reported [vnunet.com](#). It continued: Capital spending on establishing new infrastructure and revenue is increasing faster than anywhere else. “China and India will drive a significant jump in carrier cap-ex in 2008 as a result of network construction projects combined with currency appreciation against the U.S. dollar,” said Stéphane Téral, a principal analyst at Infonetics Research. “Both countries are still posting double-digit revenue growth in their native currencies which, converted into U.S. dollars, creates a big spike in worldwide carrier revenue as well,” said Téral. China Mobile is the world’s eighth largest telco by revenue, and while India does not have a company ranked in the top ten, number six ranked Vodafone has approximately 45 million GSM customers in India. [Details](#).

ICASA Obstacles May Dent MWeb Price

South Africa-based Naspers put its in-house ISP MWeb on the market last month, but its value is debatable, reported [ITWeb](#). World Wide Worx MD Arthur Goldstuck explained that MWeb attempted to create its own network “so that they can move away from reselling other telcos’ services and become

a first-tier access provider and eventually telecoms operator in their own right.” He continued: “Their WiMAX pilot was the first step in this direction, but ICASA (the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa) pulled the plug on it, and are now delaying issuing new ECN licenses to anyone but the incumbents.” MWeb is facing the challenge of investing hundreds of millions of rands in new infrastructure, along with the regulatory battle to get approval for that infrastructure. IDC telecommunications analyst Richard Hurst said that the company can be sold for between R1.4 billion and R2 billion, while regulatory hurdles and uncertainty will place a question mark over a higher valuation. [Details.](#)

Korea To Revamp WiBro Services

South Korea’s WiBro service is planning a resurgence, according to a report by the research firm **Maravedis**, a WCA member company. A revision to infrastructure and devices is in the works to improve network performance and coverage, conforming to the WiMAX Forum Wave 2 certification requirements with hopes of overcoming network coverage challenges from their initial launch. The two exclusive operators of WiBro – SK Telecom and Korea Telecom – plan to unveil Wave 2 gear in October for Seoul and nearby provinces. Initial WiBro aggregate speeds of 18.5 Mbps in the downlink and 5 Mbps in the uplink per base station sector are expected to double to 37 Mbps in the downlink and 10 Mbps in the uplink direction, respectively. KT partnered with computing companies to increase the attach rate of WiBro services to computing devices, a strategy that will likely prove fruitful for WiBro subscription. According to senior analyst at Maravedis Jeffrey Orr, “WiMAX is not the issue. Identifying significant market segments and developing applications that create new value for consumers and business users alike is the missing link.”

[Details.](#)

ChinaTel Subsidiary Completes First Stage Installation Of Wi-Fi Network In Beijing

Trussnet USA, a telecom engineering and construction firm acquired by ChinaTel Group in May 2008, completed the installation of the first phase (covering around 100 square kilometers) of a wireless Internet network in Beijing, China, according to **Trading Markets**. The network provides Internet access services in metropolitan Beijing. The WiMAX and Mesh Wi-Fi network will be provided on the 3.5 GHz frequency licensed to Chinacomm by the Chinese government. [Details.](#)

Past GDC Updates Posted On GDC Website

Previous editions of WCA’s *WiMAX/4G Global Update* are available on the Global Development Committee website: <http://www.wcai.com/blog/index.php>.

Spectrum bands such as 2.5-2.6, 2.3 and 3.4-3.6 GHz increasingly serve as global bands for broadband wireless services. Globally harmonized spectrum, flexible use, consistent regulatory treatment and interoperability are required for such bands to achieve this potential. To advance this goal, the Wireless Communications Association International (WCA) created the [Global Development Committee](#) (GDC) for service providers. This newsletter advances GDC’s work by keeping opinion leaders abreast of worldwide developments. For questions, submission of news items or to become a GDC member company, please contact WCA Communications Director and WiMAX/4G Global Update Editor [Susan Polyakova](#).

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