

# ExchangeAsia

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## India

### **Bharti Airtel to pilot new mobile transaction platform**

***XIUS-bcgi, the telecom division of Megasoft has launched eCogNito, a new end-to-end mobile transaction platform and offered it as a pilot to Bharti Airtel under an MoU.***

"Our eCogNito solution offers mobile network operators a quantum leap in operational efficiency of their revenue assurance systems by providing anytime, anywhere electronic talk time charging and bill payment in self service mode," said Sunny DeWakar, president of XIUS-bcgi's eCogNito division. "Additionally, it simplifies and speeds up day-to-day mobile transactions and is an ideal replacement for smart cards that are currently being used for different applications."

Bharti Airtel's head of m-Commerce, Pallab Mitra, added: "We have generated early interest with the current launch of our mobile commerce service in India and we already have more than 260,000 customers signed up. We believe that the solutions being offered by XIUS-bcgi will improve the ease of use and accessibility of new products and services that we plan to offer with our m-commerce initiatives." XIUS-bcgi CEO, GV Kumar, claimed that "As a reference carrier, Airtel will enable operators worldwide to realise how quickly and easily they can rollout their own m-commerce services."

According to XIUS-bcgi, eCogNito extends the division's intellectual property in embedded RFID, touch interfaces and secure flash controllers developed in partnerships with two leading international semiconductor companies to develop two unique products custom designed for mobile applications.

eCogNito is billed as "A network-agnostic contactless SIM/(U)SIM application based on an unique dual chip architecture with onboard cryptographic coprocessors...compliant with international industry standards in multiple verticals - GSM, 3GPP, ETSI (telecom), ISO 14443, Mifare, FeliCa, NFC (contact-less cards) and EMVCo (Visa, CAST), VGP, as well as GlobalPlatform (banking)."

The company claims that its contactless SIMs will work with the millions of existing handsets in-use, allowing consumers to perform contact-less transactions for prepaid recharge, electronic bill payment, booking movie tickets and accessing digital content, coupons/tokens on the move - all with easy-to-use and simple, but intuitive, touch of their handset to 'target icons' on the access points anywhere, anytime.

Another claimed innovation, "designed with state-of-the-art printed electronics technology," is a paper-thin self-service terminal device with through-the-glass touch sensing termed 'active posters'. According to XIUS-bcgi these can be mounted behind any retail shop with glass front, instantly transforming it into a 24x7 storefront.

Consumers will also be able to touch their handsets to 'target icons' on active posters placed in cafes, music shops, multiplexes, fast food restaurants, etc to automatically set-up local, high-speed free data connections using multiple short-range wireless connectivity technologies (Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, etc.) and download rich media content like video clips, games and animations in minutes to their handset/memory cards.

### **India tipped to account for 20 percent of global WiMAX users**

***According to the WiMAX Forum more than 27.5 million Indians will be WiMAX users by 2012, some 20 percent of the global total.***

Additional data from its recent WiMAX study estimates that approximately 70 percent of the forecasted WiMAX subscribers by 2012 will use mobile and portable WiMAX devices to access broadband Internet services.

The WiMAX Forum Worldwide Subscriber and User Forecast - based on results of an independently commissioned research study published this year - examines the progress of WiMAX service providers, equipment vendors, content developers and subscribers in regions around the world. It claims that "the results reflect the accelerated growth of the WiMAX ecosystem, the acceptance of WiMAX technology and demand form mobile Internet services across the world."

"WiMAX devices and networks are available now for deployment worldwide delivering best in class broadband services at a cost to consumers significantly lower than any other technology," according to the Forum. "India is clearly making the commitment and taking the steps to ensure wireless broadband services are a reality that enables operators to meet the needs of India's diverse and growing population," said Ron Resnick, president of the WiMAX Forum.

"In addition, an operator's investment to afford the build out of infrastructure and deployment of the service is at the lowest capex and the best ROI models plus the economies of scale created by this demand will help drive down the cost of the wide range of diverse WiMAX devices," Resnick claimed. "All of the leading telecom equipment manufacturers are having their WiMAX base station and other infrastructure equipment WiMAX Forum certified and are ready to showcase their equipment in India."

Last week, the WiMAX Forum commended the Department of Telecommunications of India for the allocation of and upcoming auction relating to the 2.3 and 2.5GHz frequency bands. The auction will enable two 20MHz blocks in both the 2.3 and 2.5GHz bands.

The WiMAX Forum said also it was pleased that the Indian government planned to auction blocks in the 700MHz and 3.3-3.6GHz bands as they become available. It expects to certify the first 3.5GHz WiMAX products by the end of 2008 and views 700MHz as a strong contender for Mobile Internet services, especially in India's low-density rural areas.

The WiMAX Forum plans to add an Indian certification lab to its existing network by the end of 2008 to stay ahead of the demand for products in this region. The Forum's current network consists of six labs in China, Korea, Spain, US and two in Taiwan. It will also add a lab in Japan by the end of 2008 and a Brazilian lab in 2009.

### **Comms spend by Indian SMBs tipped to reach \$US6.4b**

***Small and medium businesses (those with up to 999 employees) in India are on track to spend more than \$US6.4 billion this year on telecom equipment and services, about seven percent more than they did last year, according to a recent study by New York-based Access Markets International (AMI) Partners.***

"Spending on telecom services such as cellular services, and local and long-distance telephony accounted for more than 90 percent of total telecom spending last year," said Dev Chakravarty, senior analyst at AMI-Partners. Small businesses (up to 99 employees account for more than 99 percent of all SMBs in India and account for the bulk (about 80 percent) of the telecom spending among Indian SMBs, according to AMI.

"Cellular penetration within SBs has reached near-saturation at 98 percent almost on par with usage of local phones," Chakravarty said. However, the SMB sector is expected to add around 0.5 million new telephone lines in the next 12 months. Also, the possible entry of foreign operators into the spectrum fray is expected to bring more value-added services and tools for SMBs that will help them improve their services to customers as a part of better customer relationship management.

India SMBs are set to adopt unified communications to streamline their methods of information dissemination and collaboration with remotely located employees, according to AMI. The service sector dominates overall India SMB unified communication spending, accounting for more than four fifths of the total. Audio conferencing took a large share of the pie, followed by video, web conferencing and instant messaging.

"Usage of video and web conferencing is still at an embryonic stage within India SMBs but is anticipated to move forward along with greater availability and affordability of bandwidth; many ISPs are indeed striving to bring down the broadband cost," Chakravarty said.

Among India telecom service providers, BSNL/MTNL continues to be the market leader in terms of local and long-distance services. This is followed by Bharti Telecom. The rest of the market is fragmented with Reliance and Tata battling for market share. However, the overall market leader for telephone equipment is Beetel—it enjoys a healthy penetration—being used by 40 percent of SMBs.

### **Tata Comms gain security ops centre gains ISO2701 certification** ***Tata Communications has achieved the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 27001 certification for its security service operations centre in Chennai.***

The centre manages and monitors both premise-based and network-based security solutions 24x7x365 supporting over a dozen vendors and technologies and is claimed to offer customers a consistent service delivery model across all global regions. It bases its service delivery methods and processes around the ITIL framework. In early June, Tata Communications' global data centres also received the ISO 27001 certification.

According to Tata Comms, certification is an endorsement of its commitment to deliver managed and monitored security solutions built to the highest International standards. "Achieving and maintaining operational excellence is a strategic imperative for Tata Communications' managed security services and ISO certification is an early milestone towards achieving that objective," said Adam Rice, vice president security operations for Tata Communications. "As a company, we are wholly committed to reducing operational risk and maximising the trust and confidence our customers have in our global IT infrastructure security capabilities."

"The completion of security audits such as ISO 27001 Information Security certification is one way for customers to evaluate competitive offerings," said Agatha Poon, senior analyst for Yankee Group's enterprise research team. "For service providers that are looking for high quality partners, the level of accreditation obtained with leading vendors and standards organizations could be a critical selection criterion for a strategic partner."

## **China**

### **Juniper secures China's railway network**

***China's Ministry of Railways has chosen Juniper Networks' integrated ISG 2000 firewall/VPN and intrusion detection and prevention systems to protect its nationwide communications infrastructure.***

Equipment will be installed in the ministry's headquarters and 18 bureaux. Juniper claims that the ISG 2000 was selected for its high-performance, comprehensive security and ability to easily protect the Ministry's multi-segment network. The Ministry is using the IPS capability of ISG 2000 with the optional intrusion detection and prevention security modules. Juniper claims that tight integration of these with

the FW/VPN capability enables seamless and simple management of the entire gateway.

China Railway's network is compartmentalised for more granular user access administration to minimise damage from network attack or failure by preventing these from cascading across the entire infrastructure.

"The Juniper solution can be easily managed through a single interface without compromising performance or reliability," said Zhang Xiaolin, Juniper's general manager for China. "The ISG 2000 is essentially the gatekeeper for multiple network segments, and the IDP feature further boosts network security."

## **China Telecom adopts Huawei 40G WDM gear**

***Huawei Technologies has been selected by China Telecom to build China's first 40Gbps WDM transmission network, between Shanghai and Wuxi.***

Huawei will provide a system capable of 10G/40G hybrid transmission operating across 80 wavelengths. Huawei claims its 40G transmission gear is already deployed in Europe, North America, and Asia Pacific. The technology is claimed to support transmission over distances of 1,500kms without the need for regeneration.

China Telecom has also adopted Huawei's C-band extension technology, which is claimed to increase the fibre transmission bandwidth by an extra 20 percent enabling the DWDM system to achieve a transmission capacity of 3.84Tbps; the largest in the industry according to Huawei. Huawei recently announced the successful development of a 100G WDM prototype.

## **Indonesia**

### **Alcatel-Lucent customises OmniPCX Office IP PBX for Indonesia**

***Alcatel-Lucent has customised its OmniPCX Office IP PBX for Indonesia.***

The "streamlined" OmniPCX Office Lite serves businesses of up to 32 and 48 users, providing basic telephony features along with the flexibility to expand their networks and pay as they grow, according to Alcatel-Lucent.

The company claims that the OXO Lite "comes to market with all the advanced features of the OmniPCX Office including the ability to add more users, integrate real-time communications into applications and enable mobility simply by adding module cards and licenses as a business expands, future proofing its network and investment."

"This new offer addresses not only customer needs but also those of the Indonesian reseller community," said Joseph Bruntz, manager for SMB segment at Alcatel-Lucent in Asia. It will be distributed by PT Data Global Komukatama, Alcatel-Lucent's value added distributor in Indonesia.

## **Bangladesh**

### **Ericsson to launch 3G/HSPA pilot in Dhaka**

***Ericsson is launching a 3G/HSPA pilot network in Bangladesh "to demonstrate how to improve productivity and quality of life in the country."***

The project, called Alokito Bangladesh (Enlightened Bangladesh), will demonstrate high-speed Internet access and a range of advanced services - including mobile health and mobile learning in and around the capital, Dhaka, from early August to the end of October 2008. Ericsson says it is seeking to showcase how the technology can be a major catalyst for social and economic empowerment by bridging the digital divide in this developing market.

According to Ericsson, the project will showcase the full potential of broadband services for the first time in Bangladesh and "how an efficient and affordable 3G/HSPA broadband service can help serve as a blueprint for the widespread introduction of internet connectivity."

Ericsson is conducting the 3G trial by using the site and transmission networks of three telecom operators - Warid Telecom International Bangladesh, Grameenphone, and Telecom Malaysia International (Bangladesh), which operates under the brand name Aktel. Ericsson is using partners for m-learning and for mobile health.

The pilot will demonstrate m-learning through interactive long-distance classes led by remote teachers, while mobile health will demonstrate the potential of distance health care in the country, highlighting the potential benefits of bringing basic services to communities that lack them today. Other services included in the pilot are m-surveillance, video calling and entertainment.

Manzurul Alam, chairman, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) said: "BTRC is striving relentlessly to introduce affordable new technology services that benefit the Bangladeshi people. BTRC welcomes all initiatives that work towards unveiling new opportunities and building a modern and affordable ICT portfolio for Bangladeshi consumers...I believe there would be immense benefits for Bangladeshi telecom subscribers by gaining high-speed mobile internet access through 3G/HSPA technology in the near future."

According to Ericsson, "This nation of 153.5 million people faces a number of economic and social challenges, but it has also come a long way, achieving consistent GDP growth during the last 10 years and telecommunications have played a pivotal role in this growth."

## Taiwan

### **Arima handsets get Telegent free-to-air chips**

***Arima Communications, a Taiwanese original design manufacturer supplying cellphones worldwide, has selected Telegent's mobile TV chips to enable some of its handset models to receive free-to-air TV.***

The TV phones, which provide consumers with mobile access to local over-the-air broadcast television channels, are expected to be available to consumers by late northern summer of this year. "We see free-to-air mobile TV becoming a heavily used feature on handsets that can differentiate our product offerings," said Paul Wang, Arima's senior vice president.

"We selected Telegent's mobile TV solution because of the depth of their experience with free-to-air mobile TV and the performance of their solution with respect to picture quality, low-power and mobility."

Arima claims that its TV handset bring a number of firsts to the mobile TV market aimed at providing the consumer with enjoyable television viewing. Arima's will be the first phone from a Taiwan manufacturer to integrate a TV button on the handset that provides direct access to the TV function. It also enables auto-rotation between landscape and portrait views using an integrated accelerometer.

Arima Communications was founded in August 1999 as a member of the Arima Group, specialising in the research, development, manufacturing and marketing of mobile communications products. Its main products are multi-band GSM/GPRS, 3G/3.5G mobile phones and smart phones. The company says its strategy is to "integrate market research, product design, R&D, manufacturing, product certification, global logistics and after-sales service into a comprehensive solution for customers."

## Hong Kong

### **AsiaSat bullish with half year results announcement**

***Asia Satellite Telecommunications Holdings (AsiaSat) has announces its interim results for the six months to 30 June 2008.***

Turnover of \$HK487.5m was up 5.6 percent (excluding one time receipts the figure was \$HK486m, a 7.3 percent increase). Profit was \$HK224m, a 9.7 percent decrease. Excluding one time receipts the figure was \$UK222m, a 6.8 percent decrease. Dividend of \$HK0.08 was unchanged.

During the half year the company's overall transponder utilisation rate increased to 53 percent, construction of AsiaSat 5 remained on schedule for launch in June 2009 and planning for AsiaSat 6 commenced. Turnover of the company' SpeedCast service was up 15 percent to \$HK55m (SpeedCast became a wholly-owned subsidiary in 2H07).

AsiaSat chairman, Mi Zeng Xin, said: "The year so far is encouraging; we are the market leader in Asia, are financially robust and are debt-free, and business is positive. We remain totally committed to the future of satellite communication in the Asia-Pacific region and as markets strengthen, we are well prepared for the future."

He added: "I am pleased to report that the improved market conditions recorded at the time of the 2007 annual report have continued through the first half of 2008, our 20th year of operation, and that we are optimistic about the future. During the period under review, AsiaSat added new customers and achieved increases both in overall utilisation and in the number of transponders provided to customers. This strong performance enabled us to maintain the core turnover at a level only marginally less than that of the corresponding period last year despite the migration of broadcast customers in China to the new Chinese satellites."

AsiaSat 5 will replace AsiaSat 2 at the orbital location of 100.5°E while AsiaSat 6 is planned for the replacement of AsiaSat 3S. The commencement of AsiaSat 6 serves another purpose, according to AsiaSat. "It is the company's practice to build into each satellite replacement programme sufficient time to rebuild and re-launch a second satellite in the event of a launch failure before the one it is to replace needs to be retired. The commencement of AsiaSat 6 at this stage will provide customers with that added security and certainty of uninterrupted service in the event of an AsiaSat 5 launch failure."

Commenting on the regional market the company said: "There continues to be an excess of transponder capacity in the region despite the improvement in market conditions, but we are currently seeing a gradual recovery of the market. Demand is particularly strong from the broadcast sector as a result of the increased use of satellites to distribute content to the growing number of pay-TV platforms in Asia. These new platforms need additional content and better viewing quality by using digital or High Definition Television (HDTV) to differentiate themselves in highly competitive markets.

"The development of HDTV in Asia is the most exciting new technology with the greatest potential for the group. While the region lags behind the United States and Europe, progress has been advanced somewhat by the demands of broadcasters covering the Olympics. It is also encouraging that the industry has made a universal decision on the Blue-ray standard system for High Definition DVDs and this will enable consumers to commit to buying HDTV equipment without the fear of investing in a redundant system.

"New television channels continue to be launched in Asia and this is also driving market growth in this region. We believe that in many countries, the introduction of

new distribution methods, including Direct-to-Home (DTH) satellite television and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) delivered by the terrestrial broadband network, is triggering this expansion...Activity is particularly strong in India and this is evidenced by the new contracts we have secured and by the significant growth in the number of customers from that country."

## **Lingnan University upgrades network with Juniper**

***Hong Kong's Lingnan University has boosted the capacity and security of its student services network with the Juniper Networks M-series multi-service edge routing platform.***

According to Juniper, its routers provide faculty and students with fast, reliable and secure access to the Internet and campus resources - including coursework materials and administrative functions - from the student hostel. "The M-series router upgrades network capacity and empowers the University to handle a wide range of IP services at scale." Juniper said. "The University selected the M-series router for its performance and reliability, in addition to traffic filtering, rate control, operational versatility and low overhead delivered by Junos software, a single source-code base operating system."

"Junos software was the key to addressing our network requirements." said Dr Jeff McDonell, director of Information Technology Services Centre of Lingnan University. "It enabled our IT team to filter traffic and control rates at the core of our network with greater ease and flexibility."

## **Japan**

### **Pacnet to provide Japan-China IP-VPN for Mitsubishi**

***Mitsubishi Electric has selected Pacnet to deliver an IP-VPN to provide communications with its China operations.***

"Through Pacnet's IP-VPN solution, Mitsubishi Electric's global headquarters in Japan is now able to enjoy secure and seamless network connectivity with its facility in China," Panet said.

"This partnership with Mitsubishi Electric demonstrates our continued commitment and ability to deliver flexible, cost-effective solutions to our enterprise customers, and is further validation of our capability to provide network connectivity into China, from anywhere in the world," said Bill Barney, CEO of Pacnet.

Pacnet claims that its IP-VPN service extends to all key markets in Asia Pacific, the US and Europe. The service is available at speeds from 64Kbps to 1Gbps, and is supported by Pacnet's regional IP backbone which consists of over 240Gbps of intra-Asia and trans-Pacific capacity, and by a 24/7 multilingual service support centre.

## **New Zealand**

### **Telecom NZ shareholder pressures board**

***Elliott International, a \$10b US hedge fund and Telecom NZ shareholder, is pushing to have new independent directors of its own choosing elected to the board as part of its attempt to get Telecom NZ to structurally separate.***

Elliott first proposed the idea in November 2007 in a submission to the Government on Telecom's operational separation plan and claims since then to have provided Telecom's management and the board with extensive research and analysis on the structural separation proposal, including reports from global consultancies on key feasibility issues - regulatory and legislative implications, cost, and technical issues. It claims that this research "outlines the significant benefits the proposal could bring for Telecom, its shareholders and customers."

Elliott has now put forward Mark Tume, from Wellington, and Mark Cross, from Auckland, for election at the forthcoming AGM on 2 October with James Smith, a portfolio manager at the fund, saying: "For almost a year we have been trying to talk to Telecom about some of our ideas and concerns regarding the affairs of the company. Telecom's share price has been in decline over the past few years and once again, following disappointing year end results, its share price is around a fifteen year low.

"In our view, Telecom's performance languishes behind that of other key telecommunications players in the international market, and we believe this is partly due to an unclear and outdated strategy. Shareholders and customers remain dissatisfied with Telecom's progress." According to Elliott, "Telecom needs to take immediate and serious action to improve its situation and to consider and debate new ideas that will benefit customers and shareholders."

Telecom NZ has dismissed Elliott's initiative. Chairman, Wayne Boyd, said the company had met with Elliott on several occasions over the last twelve months to discuss its views on Telecom's strategic direction, including the implications of structural separation. "Telecom has carefully considered the implications of structural separation, and does not believe that separating our retail and network businesses would be in the best interest of shareholders at this time. The board of Telecom continues to be fully committed to considering all available options to enhance shareholder value and we believe we have the management team, strategy and financial expertise to maximise long-term shareholder value."

Elliott hopes that Cross and Tume "will provide a fresh perspective to the current challenges Telecom face" saying that: "Both...have considerable strengths in the finance and investment industry, strong commercial and strategic acumen and unique skills that will provide extra depth and new ideas for Telecom. Their expertise in financial strategy will be of particular value to the board."

### **A reputation for shareholder activism**

Elliot International is a division of Elliott Associates, founded in 1977 by, and still run by, Paul Singer. It, and he, have a reputation as "activist investors". According to a 2005 profile in IFR magazine: "Elliott Associates is an unusual hedge fund. Its preference for process-driven situations and willingness to dig into its own pockets to fight for investor rights make it stand out from the crowd."

Singer's strategies, however have not made him popular. According to a Bloomberg Markets profile in February 2008, "Singer's principal investing strategy is to buy distressed debt at a discount and then demand full payment, going to court to collect if necessary. He also purchases stock in companies slated for acquisition and demands a higher price. His techniques have pitted him against organisations from Cincinnati-based Procter & Gamble Co to the governments of Argentina and the Republic of Congo. Singer has repeatedly been labelled a 'vulture investor' by the emerging market countries whose bonds he has bought and by development organisations such as Oxfam International that back forgiveness of poor countries' debt."

## **Pan Asia**

### **Iridium going gangbusters**

***Iridium Satellite has posted double-digit increases in revenue, earnings and subscribers for the fifth consecutive quarter.***

"As the only MSS provider with a truly global network, we are benefiting from continued strong usage in our key vertical markets, as well as from increased

demand from enterprise organisations that depend on Iridium to communicate to and from anywhere in the world, the company said.

Total revenue in Q2 2008 was \$US81.7m, a 22 percent increase. EBITDA was \$US25.8m, a 28 percent increase. At June 30, 2008, Iridium had more than 280,000 subscribers, a 38 percent increase in 12 months. During Q2 voice traffic in Asia was up 82 percent, in North America up 50 percent and in Europe up 45 percent. Iridium's machine-to-machine data revenue grew 92 percent while subscriber numbers grew 154 percent.

Iridium recently announced a shortlist of two companies – Lockheed Martin and Thales Alenia Space – to build its second generation of satellites, Iridium NEXT. It intends to complete the selection process by mid 2009.

## **More consolidation in market research**

***This week two major telecoms market research firms have announced acquisitions, following on earlier month.***

Strategy Analytics has acquired Teligen, a UK based provider of information on telecommunications pricing, tariffs, and market dynamics, from Harris Interactive. According to Strategy Analytics, "Teligen is the authoritative source for addressing issues on the competitive environment for telecoms services pricing in wireless, broadband, and traditional telecommunications on a global basis...By combining Teligen's pricing expertise with Strategy Analytics' industry analysis, we have created a powerful portfolio of analytics for our telecommunications clients interested in improved competitiveness."

Also announced this week, the Telecom Intelligence Group (TIG) division of Access Intelligence has been sold to T3i Group, a new investor-backed company formed for the purpose and will be renamed T3i. TIG is a provider of market research, data, analysis, and consulting and advisory services to the telecommunications industry. It has a global client base that includes some of the world's largest telecommunications equipment manufacturers and service providers. It has four operating units: Tarifica, TelecomTactics, TelecomWeb and InfoTech consulting.

T3i investors include; financier Richard Dorfman; Robert CS Monks, former chairman of Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS); Dwight Allison, a former board member of, and investor in, ISS; and James Heard, former CEO of ISS. TIG senior managers, Michael O'Neill and Susan Hobart, are also investors in T3i and will be responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations with John Lilley, who heads the London office, and Debra Baker, editor-in-chief of TelecomWeb.

Earlier this month Forrester Research announced that it had acquired JupiterResearch and its parent company, JUPR Holdings, from MCG Capital Corporation for \$US23m in cash plus assumed liabilities.

JupiterResearch has 83 employees and 2007 revenues of approximately \$US14m. Forrester, with 2007 revenues of \$212 million has more than 1,000 employees. JupiterResearch will join Forrester's marketing & strategy client group, which contributed \$US46.4m to total revenue in 2007. Forrester described the move as "a strategic purchase that complements Forrester's syndicated business model."

## **Technology**

### **DECT standard upgraded for VoIP**

***ETSI has released a new version of the DECT cordless telephony standard providing full support for telephony over the Internet and for 'hi-fi' quality voice.***

The new standard adds support for "all complex service scenarios possible with SIP and H.323 VoIP technologies." It includes: a new edition of the DECT common interface (DECT CI), EN 300 175 parts 1 to 8; a new edition of the Generic Access Profile (GAP), EN 300 444; and two new generation DECT specifications: part 1 (TS 102 527-1) wideband speech, and the new one; TS 102 527-3 extended wideband speech services.

A set of new wideband and super-wideband audio codecs has been added. These include G.722, G.729.1 and MPEG-4 supporting high quality audio transmission up to 14kHz and providing the means to control audio quality with a set of 'audio models' which define the acoustic performance of all DECT devices. Several models are available allowing the manufacture of DECT devices with different levels of acoustic quality. ETSI claims that the highest level "may provide acoustic quality close to professional audio or high fidelity devices."

The maximum sustainable rate of packet data transmission has been increased to 84bits/sec with basic GFSK modulation and more than 5Mbps with the high level modulation option. All audio specifications will be controllable by means of dedicated test specifications. The new standard is back compatible with all existing DECT devices.

ETSI Technical Committee DECT chairman, Günter Kleindl, said: "DECT is now fit for the Internet with these enhancements and the new version will be provided to the ITU to update the related IMT-Recommendations. Consequently, we will see additional growth in the market. However, despite this latest achievement there is no time to relax and work continues to advance the DECT system even further in order to support additional user requirements as provided by the DECT Forum and the new interface requirements as defined by the ITU."

Angel Bóveda, a strategic consultant specialising in wireless technologies and leader of the ETSI Special Task Force 338 said: "The new update of the standard has been focused on telephony over Internet and that is now the primary target scenario, providing complete support for VoIP SIP and H.323 applications. The inclusion of h 7kHz and 14kHz telephony will raise the telephone experience to a further level."

ETSI claims that, with over 600 millions terminals manufactured to date and sales running at 64 million handsets per year, DECT is the worldwide leading technology for cordless applications and is an IMT-2000 technology. Over 100 countries have allocated dedicated DECT spectrum.

## **Sybase boosts enterprise mobility offerings**

***Sybase has launched a new platform to mobilise enterprise applications, Sybase Unwired Platform, claimed to "addresses the multichannel access gateway (MAG) requirements of enterprises with a single, strategic architecture [and] that eases development, deployment and management of strategic mobile applications to a range of mobile device types."***

It is also claimed to streamline device security and management, and "may significantly reduce a company's total cost of ownership by enabling strategic mobile deployments versus tactical or siloed mobile application approaches." The launch was one of several announcements at Sybase's 10th annual TechWave user training and solutions conference in Las Vegas. Others included:

- Afaria 6.0, the latest version of Afaria, a core component of the Sybase Information Anywhere Suite. It will include a new relay server architecture that works across multiple Information Anywhere Suite components to offer secure communications for data synchronisation and mobile device management functions;
- the Sybase Analytic Appliance combining Sybase IQ analytics server with other technologies;
- SQL Anywhere 11, with over 200 new features and enhancements.