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China

Trapeze Networks picked for China's largest metro WLAN

Trapeze Networks has won the Hangzhou WiFi Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) project, the largest WiFi MAN in China.

Trapeze Networks will deploy more than 3,000 access points in Hangzhou, allowing the city's 6.5 million residents to enjoy wireless Internet access.

Commnet, a subsidiary of SOYEA Technology, and Trapeze Networks will install the WiFi network in three phases. The first phase will enable WiFi access along Hangzhou's main ring roads, important scenic spots, the central business district and some residential areas. Phases two and three will extend coverage to the entire Greater Hangzhou area. By the end of 2009, the whole of Hangzhou will be blanketed with WiFi connectivity.

"This is the first time Trapeze Networks has worked on a city-level WiFi project in China where the entire range of our Smart Mobile products will be used," said Jim Vogt, president, Trapeze Networks. "Trapeze Networks will help the city realise centralised control and management of its wireless network, and creating a valuable example for other Chinese cities looking to deploy WiFi MANs in the future."

More than half of the WiFi products and services used in Hangzhou's WiFi metropolitan area network will be provided and managed by Trapeze Networks and Commnet. More than 3,000 Trapeze Networks' Mobility Point access points, together with Trapeze Networks' Mobility Exchange WLAN controllers and RingMaster management software will be deployed in phase one.

Tao Lu, technical director of Hangzhou Commnet, said: "With Trapeze Networks' RingMaster network management tool we can minutely design the position, quantity and configuration of access points according to number of users and bandwidth demands for a given coverage area. RingMaster will then generate an instructional layout for installation that not only saves manpower, but also ensures that new configurations can be done efficiently and on time."

Baidu and UiTV team to deliver online video

Chinese language Internet search provider, Baidu.com, has entered into agreements with UiTV, operator of the largest Internet television platform in China.

Baidu will contribute assets related to the operation of Baidu Internet TV Channel to UiTV in exchange for an 8.3 percent stake in UiTV and \$US15 million. The Baidu Internet TV Channel will continue to be hosted on movie.baidu.com but will be operated by UiTV. (This channel is not related to video.baidu.com, Baidu's video search business.)

Baidu Internet TV Channel is a website where Internet users can download movies and TV programs. Through cooperation with the majority of China's online movie and TV service and content providers, including TVB, Enlight Media and many others, Baidu Internet TV Channel has China's largest database for authorised copyrighted movie and TV program downloads.

Baidu Internet TV Channel operates an advertising-based revenue sharing model that allows users to download copyrighted video content for free. Baidu's independent director, James Ding, is the chairman of UiTV and owns a minority interest in that company.

Xuyang Ren, Baidu's vice president of marketing and business development said: "This transaction will help UiTV become even more competitive in the Internet

television market thanks to the expanded exposure and influence of this collaborative platform. It also offers Baidu the opportunity to benefit from UiTV's vast future growth potential. Together we can leverage our respective strengths to provide a better online movie and television experience for Chinese Internet users."

Song Lin, president and chief executive officer of UiTV, added, "Our cooperation with Baidu will establish a strategic relationship that allows both parties to capitalise on UiTV's strong technical and operational capabilities. We endeavour to provide the best quality experience to Baidu's Internet TV Channel users and expect the new partnership will create a more effective online advertising platform for our online marketing customers."

India

Shyam Telelink launches CDMA net in Rajasthan

Shyam Telelink, a subsidiary of Russian conglomerate, Sistema, has launched a CDMA 800MHz mobile network under the brand name 'Rainbow' in Rajasthan.

The move marks the beginning of the expansion of Shyam Telelink's pan-Indian mobile network. The company intends to provide its services to more than 35 million subscribers by 2012, approximately seven percent of the Indian market.

It intends to launch services in two more Indian circles in the first quarter of 2009 and has spectrum in 22 Indian circles, covering 28 administrative states and seven union territories with a population of approximately 1.1 billion people.

Shyam Telelink has built and activated 833 base stations in Rajasthan and is offering service packages through 15,500 outlets across the state. It plans to increase the number to 25,000 by March 2009.

At the time of the launch, the Shyam Telelink mobile network covered an area of 35 million potential customers, half the total population of the state. The company intends to cover a territory with a target population of 47-50 million by March 2009.

Shyam Telelink Limited (STL) was founded in 1998 and has operated in Rajasthan since 2000. It provides fixed-line services to over 280,000 subscribers the company is a joint venture between the Shyam Group of India & Sistema Corporation of Russia (73.7 percent).

Sistema is the largest public diversified corporation in Russia and the CIS. It manages fast growing companies operating in the consumer services sector and has over 100 million customers in telecommunications, technology, banking, real estate, retail, media, tourism and healthcare.

Bharti Airtel offers envIOWorks social networking

Bharti Airtel has launched Hello Tunes Manager, a free download application from envIOWorks that enables users to instantly find out what Hello Tune they has heard or to review a history of recent tunes, and send ratings, comments and requests to their friends.

"Our Hello Tunes service lets our subscribers create and experience a personalised calling experience for their friends - their social community," said Sanjay Gupta, chief marketing officer - mobile services, Bharti-Airtel.

The envIOWorks platform is claimed to build social marketplaces around any form of mobile content. Users can rate, recommend and request mobile content from each other in an interactive experience spanning from the simplest phones to social networks such as Facebook, MySpace and Friendster.

"envIO's Hello Tunes Manager fits in with the vision of recognising and leveraging the power of innovative mobile content as the right catalyst for social marketing. We're seeing this increase both service usage and content consumption. envIO makes mobile content part of a broader social experience," explained Prakash Iyer, CEO of envIO networks.

"Our social marketing capabilities help users easily find and buy the mobile content that they like - and to have fun while doing it."

Tata Comms extends MPLS net to Middle East

Tata Communications has extended its global MPLS network into the Middle East through a partnership with Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco).

According to Tata Comms, the partnership will enable it to offer MPLS VPN services into Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan and other locations within the region for its customers in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world.

The partnership with Batelco extends Tata Communications' capability to provide MPLS services to 78 countries and with Extended Access Service via IPSec gateways, in over 150 countries.

Fiji

Digicel launches in Fiji

Cellular operator, Digicel Pacific, has launched services in Fiji ending Vodafone Fiji's 14 year monopoly of cellular.

Digicel says it has invested \$US70 million to date in Fiji to create 95 percent coverage as part of its aim to create a seamless pan-Pacific network. Digicel Pacific CEO, Vanessa Slowey, said: "Fiji is Digicel's twenty eighth market launch worldwide to date."

Since receiving a license in Fiji in May 2008, Digicel has built up a workforce of more than 170 employees and claims to have created an estimated 10,000 additional jobs through its local dealerships and partners. The company has opened 14 stores and has more than 25,000 top-up locations across the country.

Digicel claims to be offering several first-to-market services and offerings including per second billing, rollover minutes, international postpaid and prepaid roaming and bundled voice minutes and BlackBerry compatibility.

Digicel has sponsored the World Cup Rugby 7s champions, the Digicel Fiji 7s rugby team, since 2006. With rugby legend and Digicel brand ambassador Waisale Serevi coaching the team for the upcoming season, hopes are high that Fiji will retain its crown. Digicel also directly supports rugby d across Fiji through sponsorship of the Digicel Cup, the nation's premier provincial rugby competition.

Digicel also works with the Fiji Paralympics Association and is partnering with the Fiji STAHS, a service which provides counselling for youths on health and development issues.

Since its launch in the South Pacific in November 2006, Digicel has become the fastest-growing mobile operator in the Pacific with current operations in Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea and now Fiji the Company has commitments for mobile licenses from several other countries in the Pacific.

Japan

NTT DoCoMo & Avex JV to produce made-for-mobiles videos

NTT DoCoMo is to form a joint venture, Avex Broadcasting & Communications, with Avex Entertainment for the production and on-demand distribution of video content packaged for mobile phones.

The company is scheduled to begin operating in March 2009 with capital of ¥3.5 billion and capital reserves of 3.5 billion 30 percent from DoCoMo and 70 percent from AEI.

NTT DoCoMo, says that, unlike most mobile-content companies that distribute video works which were originally developed for movie theatres and DVD systems, the new company will produce and distribute content developed specifically for the small screens of mobile phones, giving special consideration to scripting, editing, photography, etc. tailored for the mobile phone environment.

NTT DoCoMo will provide its IT infrastructure, mobile technologies and experience in providing mobile customers with popular video content. AEI will contribute its expertise in content creation, artist management and services centred on intellectual property.

The new company expects to form content-creation partnerships with five video-content production companies, including Fuji Television Network, one of Japan's most successful nationwide television networks, and Oz Co whose producer Takashige 'Taka' Ichise is responsible for hit horror movies such as 'Ringu' (Japanese version of 'The Ring') and the Hollywood blockbuster 'The Grudge'.

Avex Entertainment is a part of the Avex Group, one of Japan's biggest music and movie entertainment companies with operations in the production, packaging, sale/distribution (including Web) and rights management of music and visual content in Japan and other markets in Asia.

JPIX to offer Internet peering in Equinix data centre

Japan Internet Exchange Co (JPIX), the largest Internet exchange in Japan, has extended its peering fabric to the Equinix Tokyo-2 (TY2) Internet Business Exchange data centre in Shinagawa.

Equinix customers will be able to directly exchange traffic, 'peer' with JPIX's Internet service provider, cable TV service provider and content provider customers to increase reliability, improve performance and reduce the costs of network traffic exchange.

JPIX, with over 100 customers, is a strategic exchange point for Internet traffic in Japan. Through this agreement, JPIX will set up an Internet Exchange (IX) switch at the Equinix TY2 centre, and it will use Equinix's IBXLink service to directly connect to the Equinix TY1 centre in Heiwajima.

David Wilkinson, managing director of Equinix Japan, said: "Equinix has been actively encouraging peering relationships between international and Japanese customers by providing innovative services and organising forums that foster greater interaction. This partnership with JPIX is a milestone that enhances the peering fabric for both companies, allowing customers the ability to further scale their peering relationships with a larger aggregation of ISPs, content providers and content delivery networks."

NTT DoCoMo to launch BlackBerry Bold

NT DoCoMo is to launch the BlackBerry Bold 3G smartphone in Japan in early 2009.

It offers phone, email, messaging, organiser and web browsing applications and features a newly designed QWERTY keyboard, built-in GPS and Wi-F and multimedia

capabilities including an optional 2 megapixel camera with video recording and a media player for music, videos and pictures. It also includes the new BlackBerry Media Sync application, allowing customers to synchronise their iTunes digital music collections with the smartphone. However files incorporating digital rights management are not supported.

Pakistan

wi-tribe picks Motorola for WiMAX rollout

Motorola has signed a multi-year WiMAX contract with new wireless broadband Internet provider, wi-tribe Pakistan.

Motorola says it will supply infrastructure and "a comprehensive services package that will enable cost-effective, compelling wireless broadband services for wi-tribe's customers."

wi-tribe Pakistan is a joint venture between Qatar Telecom and Saudi Arabia's AA Turki Group of Companies (ATCO). It aims to deliver instant wireless broadband connectivity from North Africa across the Middle East and up to Asia. wi-tribe has a partnership with Clearwire, a leading broadband wireless operators in North America and Europe.

"WiMAX is changing the way people are connecting and is opening doors to a new world of opportunities," said Mohammad Sadiq, CEO of wi-tribe Pakistan. "We will be offering high-speed Internet that is simple, affordable, and a portable alternative to fixed broadband. The Motorola WiMAX solution frees customers from the fixed line services."

Motorola will begin deploying wi-tribe's WiMAX network from this month in the 3.5GHz band. Commercial launch is expected during 2009. Motorola will supply a range of equipment from its WiMAX portfolio including the WAP 400 WiMAX access point

New Zealand

New Zealanders won't get the broadband they need

A study commissioned by InternetNZ says that the broadband initiatives of neither major political party will give the country the broadband speeds it needs.

The Internet Society of New Zealand has a stated target of 100Mbps for domestic users and 1Gbps for commercial users. It has commissioned a two stage report from Auckland-based Network Strategies to detail available options for a New Zealand broadband infrastructure that will achieve these goals, and has just released the first stage report.

The study has reviewed current and pending broadband infrastructure and service offerings and has concluded that without further public investment in broadband infrastructure the result will be "enhanced services in the larger cities, and either lower-standard (or non-existent) services or high-cost services in other areas." It does not expect that rural and remote users will not see much improvement beyond the expensive satellite services that are available today.

To achieved InternetNZ's desired goals, Network Strategies suggests "the greatest chance of success would be public-private partnerships and utility business expansions." It says "there is also clear evidence that demand-side initiatives (demand aggregation and stimulation) may have an important role in achieving desired take-up and ongoing viability of the venture, and thus should not be neglected when developing broadband strategies."

The scope of stage 2 of the study is expected to comprise a summary of the current state of broadband in New Zealand and what a 'status quo' future scenario might look like, through to a business model that outlines how future broadband infrastructure might operate, including an outline of its costs, the services provided, funding options, possible road-maps for its deployment, and a discussion of the roles of the different stakeholders.

Broadband developments to date

In April 2008, The New Zealand Institute released a discussion document (*Delivering on the Broadband Aspiration: A Recommended Pathway to Fibre in New Zealand*) containing a considered and costed roadmap as the first part of a proposed project for New Zealand to "develop a fast path to fibre to capture the economic benefits".

National Party leader John Key's leader's speech (*Achieving a Step Change: Better Broadband for New Zealand*) of 22nd April 2008 flagged a political intention to invest "up to \$NZ1.5 billion of Crown capital over six years to accelerate the roll-out of a fibre-to-the-home network for New Zealand".

The Labour-led Government's Broadband Investment Fund was released as part of the budget on 22 May 2008, pledging \$NZ325m of operating spending to support rollout of broadband Internet infrastructure on a contestable, technology-neutral basis. The Fund includes \$NZ75m specifically set aside for rural broadband issues.

Pan Asia

Ovum's Asia Pacific telco scorecard

Analyst and consulting firm, Ovum, has posted its analysis of 1H08 financial results for 49 Asia-Pacific saying that historical trends favour China and India "overwhelming the rest of the region in telecom heft over the next few years."

For the group of 49, 1H08 revenues climbed 16.0 percent to \$US205.3 billion, slightly ahead of the 15.5 percent growth in core opex (excluding depreciation). Strong capex growth of 24.9 percent pushed the region's capital intensity to 21.2 percent, up from 19.7 percent in 1H07.

Profits were mixed: average net margins for 1H08 improved slightly from 1H07 to 12.4 percent. However, operating cash flow (EBITDA less capex, or OCF) as a percentage of revenues slipped to 15.2 percent from 16.5 percent in 1H07.

"Japan remained AP's revenue powerhouse, with 38 percent of the 1H08 total, and it accounted for roughly one-third of capex", said Ovum principal analyst, Matt Walker. "Carriers there, though, struggle with revenue growth and profitability amidst a difficult economic and regulatory environment, and this has also kept capex growth minimal."

More vigorous growth in both capex and revenues was seen in China (26 percent of 1H08 revenues and nearly one-third of capex), South Asia (over 11 percent of capex though less than five percent of revenues), and Southeast Asia.

Revenue growth in both Thailand and the Philippines approached 30 percent in 1H08. Taiwan, Japan, and Korea all lost revenue share in 1H08, due to 2G mobile saturation, fixed-mobile substitution, and broadband competition.

Walker added, "Despite a solid base and strong drivers for investment, we expect AP's telcos to be cautious about major capex projects over the coming quarters..." "There are positive signs that capex growth is ahead in the coming quarters as profits stabilise, carriers see the need to roll out new services, and carriers compete vigorously while managing opex at sustainable levels.

"Yet carriers and their vendors continue to cite a tough economic environment and costly credit as issues impacting spending. Carriers finding it hard to cut operating costs may cut back on capex as a quick fix – even if it has serious medium-term consequences to network quality and service capabilities."

Nokia gets out of enterprise mobility

Nokia will cease developing or marketing its own business mobility solutions, relying instead on partners like Cisco and Microsoft and will focus on its new consumer push e-mail service, which it will bolster with the purchase of consumer mobile messaging solution provider, Oz.

Nokia made a \$US430m foray into push email in 2005 to compete with Blackberry in the enterprise market, with the acquisition of Intellisync, but has thrown in the towel and will rely on companies such as Cisco and Microsoft to provide this and other mobility applications to enterprise customers.

It will cease developing or marketing its own business mobility solutions and the technologies and expertise underpinning these will be reallocated to its new consumer push e-mail service. Nokia did not say whether any staff would lose their jobs as a result but spun the announcement by describing it as a "renewal" of its business mobility strategy.

To serve enterprise customers, Nokia now plans to "combine Nokia devices and applications with software solutions from industry leading enterprise vendors such as Microsoft, IBM, Cisco and others."

Justifying the decision, Niklas Savander, EVP, services & software, said: "We have very strong relationships with industry leading enterprise technology partners such as Cisco and Microsoft, as well as a broad range of operator and retail channel partners. Together with them, we will use our expertise in devices, as well as the combined channel footprint and customer base, to deliver a range of unbeatable end-to-end offerings for business." He cited "The initial success of the Nokia E71 with Microsoft Exchange ActiveSync" as being "a great example of the attractiveness of our new approach."

Terry Myerson, corporate vice president, Exchange group at Microsoft, backed him up by saying that the recent launch of Microsoft Exchange ActiveSync on over 40 Nokia S60 phones had demonstrated that, "Microsoft and Nokia are committed to working together to deliver great experiences for our customers."

The senior vice president of Cisco's Wireless and Security Technology group, Brett Galloway, said that Cisco had been "working closely with Nokia to deliver voice and data mobile business solutions that combine Nokia's best-in-class mobile devices with Cisco's complete range of unified communications and wireless networking offerings."

- **Nokia to acquire OZ for mobile email and IM**

Within 24 hours of announcing its shift in email strategy Nokia followed up with the announcement of plans to acquire Montreal based Oz. It is a privately held company with approximately 220 employees and, according to Nokia, "the leading consumer mobile messaging solution provider, deliver[ing] access to popular instant messaging and email services on consumer mobile devices...with more than 5.5 million monthly paid users."

Nokia said the acquisition would enable it to offer "easy-to-use, fast access to leading instant messaging and email services, including AOL, Gmail, ICQ, Windows Live, Hotmail, Windows Live Messenger and Yahoo!."

Nokia said that the OZ expertise and technology was complementary to its own portfolio of messaging solutions and would provide "a complete portfolio of mobile messaging solutions for Series 40 and S60 devices" It promised to continue to work

closely with OZ's existing original equipment manufacturer (OEM) and mobile operator customers."

The move, however might not be without its problems. Operators are reported to be already wary of the possible impact of Oz on their own brands and of Nokia's Ovi brand. Telecoms.com quoted Nomura analyst, Richard Windsor saying the acquisition of Oz, "Brings the Ovi strategy into sharper focus and gives it greater shape and clarity." He said that Nomura has, "Long been concerned that Internet brands increasingly view Nokia as an emerging competitor which could lead to Ovi not getting access to critical content or having to pay through the nose for it."

● **Nokia to sell security appliance business**

In a move related to its exit from enterprise mobility, Nokia also announced plans to sell its security appliances business, saying it is in advanced stages of discussions for the potential sale to a financial investor that was "committed to continuing the development and growth of the business, to serving its current network of customers, and to retaining and motivating its employees."

Trans-Pacific Express sub cable ready for service

The first phase of the 18,000km Trans-Pacific Express submarine cable system - directly connecting Mainland China, the USA, South Korea and Taiwan - is ready for service.

TPE was announced in December 2006 as a 5.12Tbps system but when fully deployed and with phase two complete will be a 6Tbps system.

The six initial investors were China Netcom, China Telecom, China Unicom, Chunghwa Telecom, Korea Telecom and Verizon Business. They selected Tyco Telecommunications as the prime supplier and committed to an aggressive schedule to meet the original goal of activating the system in the third quarter of 2008. Earlier this year, AT&T and NTT Communications joined the consortium and plans were made to add a link to Japan giving TPE six landing sites: one in Japan, two in mainland China and one each in Taiwan, South Korea and the USA.

New boss for Vodafone Asia Pacific

Vodafone's operations in Australia, New Zealand and a number of other major markets will get a new CEO following a restructuring of the global mobile company's operations earlier this month.

Nick Read, currently CEO of Vodafone UK, will become CEO of the Asia-Pacific & Middle East Region which will comprise Vodafone's interests in Australia, China, Egypt, Fiji, India, New Zealand and Qatar. The new head of Vodafone UK will be Guy Laurence, currently CEO of Vodafone Netherlands.

Also, Morten Lundal, currently CEO Middle East & Africa, will be appointed CEO of the Central Europe & Africa Region which will comprise Vodafone's interests in the Czech Republic, Ghana, Hungary, Kenya, Poland, Romania, Turkey and South Africa.

Vodafone announced on 9 September that it would split its Eastern Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia/Pacific region into two regions from 1 January 2009: Central Europe/Africa and Asia-Pacific. It said the change was designed to provide greater focus on its higher growth markets. Paul Donovan, the current CEO EMAPA, said he would leave Vodafone at the end of this year.

Technology

Mobile industry unites to push embedded broadband

The global GSM Association has roped in 16 of the world's best known IT and mobile companies to promote laptops with embedded wireless broadband as "a compelling alternative to WiFi."

The GSMA claims the initiative will enable operators to address a \$US50 billion opportunity in both mature and emerging markets. "Mobile Broadband is like a home or office broadband connection with one crucial difference: freedom. Freedom from hot spots, freedom from complexity and freedom from security concerns," said Michael O'Hara, CMO of the GSMA.

Presumably this means that you would not bother with a terrestrial broadband link and combined modem/router/ wireless access point which many people use in their homes today, but would simply use your HSPA enabled laptop over the public cellular network wherever you were.

The GSMA's claim of a \$US50b opportunity is derived from a study conducted by Pyramid Research on behalf of the GSMA and Microsoft which found 88 percent of consumers planning to buy a notebook in the \$US500-\$US1000 price-range would prefer mobile broadband built-in rather than their original choice. Pyramid estimates this market to equate, in 2008, to some 79.5m notebooks with a retail value of \$US50b.

The GSMA has more than 750 GSM mobile operator members who between them have more than three billion GSM and 3GSM connections - over 86 percent of the world's mobile phone connections. More than 200 manufacturers and suppliers support the association.

The initial members of the Mobile Broadband Initiative are 3, Asus, Dell, ECS, Ericsson, Gemalto, Lenovo, Microsoft, Orange, Qualcomm, Telefónica Europe, Telecom Italia, TeliaSonera, T-Mobile, Toshiba and Vodafone.

In the first phase of the initiative, mobile operator, PC manufacturer and chipset provider members of the alliance will pre-install mobile broadband into a range of notebook PCs that they promise "will be ready to switch on and surf straight out of the box in 91 countries across the world."

To enable consumers to identify such products the GSMA has created the Mobile Broadband service mark, saying it will be "backed by a global media spend of more than \$US1 billion in the next year - evidence that the industry is serious about this proposition." However it has not indicated whether this is new spend specific to this initiative, or simply the aggregated marketing spend of the members on relevant products.

The initiative will ramp up quickly. O'Hara said: "we expect to see on several hundred thousand notebooks in the shops by the [Christmas] holiday season."

However, the GSMA says integrating mobile broadband into notebook PCs is only the first step in a wider strategy to deliver wireless Internet access and management to a whole range of previously unconnected devices - from cameras and MP3 players to refrigerators, cars and set-top boxes.

Ovum advises caution on femtocells

In the wake of Japanese telco, Softbank, announcing plans for large scale deployment of 3G femtocells, Ovum has cautioned other operators against rushing to embrace the technology, saying it is still too immature.

"In general we would advise operators to hold back on deploying femtocells until standards-based equipment becomes available, unless the need to be particularly disruptive in the market is their overarching market strategy," Ovum says.

It adds that, until then "Softbank's (and Sprint's) end-user devices will be saddled with uncompetitive pricing without heavy subsidy. Furthermore, the risk of technical implementation issues, and resulting customer problems, remain great for Softbank and other early adopters."

Ovum points out that, despite several attempts this year, we are still yet to experience a working demonstration of a femtocell data session.

Ovum claims that the need to resolve standardisation issues is already causing operators to hold back on their plans until the situation is clarified, which it predicts will be December 2008 at the earliest with equipment based on these standards in sufficient volumes to be cost effective not being available until December 2009.

However, standards are not the only issues causing delays, according to Ovum. "Both quality-of-service guarantees over broadband and the regulatory situation remain unclear. The former is most important to mobile operators without their own fixed broadband offering and will only be solved with commercial agreements. The latter caused Softbank to delay its original, even more aggressive, plans. However, it will undoubtedly materialise elsewhere as more deployments occur after 2010."

IPv6 Forum teams up with 4G mobile event organiser

The Fourth Generation Mobile Forum (4GMF) and the IPv6 Forum have formed an alliance to promote interoperability and foster creation of next generation mobile broadband applications.

4GMF chairman, Dr Willie W Lu, said the IPV6 Forum "could add great value to our open mobile platform for innovative end to end mobile applications and services, especially with the looming IPv4 address depletion by 2010."

IPv6 Forum president, Latif Ladid said this platform would be used for "sharing technological innovations and business insights in the emerging fourth generation open mobile and wireless communications focusing on applications and services."

However, the 4GMF is not a forum in the sense of the IPV6 Forum, rather it is the organiser of a series of conferences & exhibitions that was spun off from the World Wireless Congress in 2005 to be more focussed on open 4G technologies and businesses.

Its goal is "to identify the most promising entrepreneurial opportunities, industry solutions and investments in this emerging 4G open mobile technology movement." It is planning five events around the world in 2009, the last one in Sydney on 18-19 December.

Its web site gives no clue as to what Lu might mean by "our open mobile platform for innovative end-to-end mobile applications and services." However a spokesman told *Exchange*: "4GMF has a working group meeting to define new standards for the industry, like 3GPP. Just because the industry is still a little bit sensitive to '4G', we are just slowly evolving from a technical forum to an industry standards-setting body."