

ExchangeAsia

Volume 16 Issue 40

ISSN 1320 – 2669

19 October 2008

India

Verizon Business expands in India
Nokia Siemens Networks opens new facility in India
Bharti Airtel and Infosys enhance digital TV service
New chief for Reliance's data comms business

China

Nokia Siemens gears up for TD-SCDMA
PicoChip demos TD-SCDMA femtocell & announces first customer
Trapeze Networks opens second China R&D centre
China gets second WiFi accreditation lab

Japan

NTT DoCoMo, Renesas, Fujitsu, and Sharp to develop HSUPA platform

Hong Kong

PCCW abandons plans to sell off 45 percent of HKT

Singapore

NDS provides access control for DVB-H trial

Bangladesh

Ericsson to extend Grameenphone network

Taiwan

Chunghwa picks Alcatel Lucent switches for FTTB network

Pakistan

eServGlobal teams with Averox for Pakistan market

New Zealand

Telecom NZ to build nation-wide 850MHz 3G network

Pan Asia

Verizon Business launches global Cisco unified comms & collab service
New leader for Verizon Business global sales team
Avaya gets new chief for Asia Pacific

Technology

IMS Forum absorbs NGN Forum
Ericsson demos wind-powered base station
Nokia taps Nuance for mobile speech and predictive text

India

Verizon Business expands in India

Verizon Business says it is significantly expanding its presence in India through Verizon Business India to support the direct delivery of advanced telecommunications services to India-based multinationals and those with operations in India.

Verizon Business India is the trading name of a joint venture between Verizon Business and the Videocon Group of Mumbai. Verizon Business holds a 74 percent stake in the joint venture, called Verizon Communications India Private Limited and doing business as Verizon Business India. Videocon Group holds the remaining 26 percent.

The move follows receipt of international and national long-distance licenses in early 2008. Verizon Business is now activating private IP nodes in the major Indian business centres of Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai and New Delhi and is offering customers a direct, secure, high-performance link to the Verizon Business global MPLS network. It says that these nodes complement its existing Indian operations to provide diverse and redundant connectivity.

The company is also investing in local service and support capabilities to directly deliver its portfolio of next-generation solutions to customers, and enhance local customer-service capabilities.

Verizon Business claims to be well-established in the Indian market. It has offices in Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai and New Delhi. Verizon Data Services India employs more than 4,000 people at its IT centres in Chennai and Hyderabad, performing a variety of software development, product design, coding and testing functions for Verizon's global operations. Verizon Business also holds an Internet service provider license in India and has various local ISP facilities.

Verizon Business is the only US member of the consortium that built the SEA-ME-WE-4 undersea cable network system, which provides diverse connectivity from India to Europe and Asia. Verizon Business also announced in May its participation in the Europe India Gateway (EIG) consortium, which is building an undersea optical cable system connecting Europe, the Middle East and India. The 15,000km system will provide a second, diverse route from India to Europe and direct access to Verizon Business' network in Europe.

Nokia Siemens Networks opens new facility in India

Nokia Siemens Networks has opened a new facility for the manufacture and distribution of mobile communications infrastructure at Oragadam near Chennai.

The company says it plans to invest approximately \$US70 million, in the facility and to generate 400 new jobs over the next three years. CEO Simon Beresford Wylie, said: "Our operations in India are a prime example of where we feel we can build on our existing leadership with prudent, customer focused investment.

"With its proximity to the local market improving our responsiveness and reducing the carbon footprint of new network deployments, this additional facility epitomises our global strategy to build a responsible, customer focused business."

The new facility will manufacture Nokia Siemens Networks' mobile base station controllers, Flexi EDGE BTS, microwave radio and access line-card products, as well as other telecom equipment. The first deliveries of radio access products manufactured and distributed from the site to customers in India are planned for later this month.

Besides the new manufacturing facility, the company's operations in India include a global services hub, sales and marketing offices in Delhi NCR, a manufacturing facility in Kolkata for producing fixed network equipment, a development centre in Bangalore and a global networks solution centre in Chennai.

The company has more than 8000 staff and a presence in more than 200 locations in India, and measured in terms of revenue, is one of the country's top 30 enterprises.

Bharti Airtel and Infosys enhance digital TV service

Bharti Airtel and Infosys Technologies have formed a partnership under which Infosys will provide a suite of products including devices, application servers and interactive applications designed to provide "an enhanced digital lifestyle to Airtel digital TV customers."

The two companies say that Airtel's digital TV technology in combination with Infosys' Digital convergence platform "will bring digital lifestyle applications offering interactivity and personalisation into the living room...[including] interactive and non-intrusive applications like widgets that can be invoked by the user to view relevant and customised information."

The add that, "For the first time in the country, TV-viewers will now be able to access local city information through interactive applications such as iCity, enjoy hassle-free Internet-like experience on their televisions with iNet, and get live and personalised stock quotes, breaking news, horoscopes, cricket scores and shopping deals in the city without interrupting their TV-viewing experience."

Airtel digital TV customers will also have select websites packaged suitably for TV viewing, in an application called tPortal. In addition, "a host of other innovative applications" are slated for release over a period of time.

New chief for Reliance's data comms business

Reliance Globalcom has appointed Mark Thompson as president of its data business unit, responsible for all data communications solutions within the global communications group.

Punit Garg, president and CEO of Reliance Globalcom, said: "Mark brings to Reliance's new Data Business unit over a decade's worth of telecommunications experience and an impressive track record leading customer-driven organisations. His knowledge of the global communications market and his direct experience with multinational enterprises will provide Reliance Globalcom with the leadership and expertise required to become one of the foremost communications providers in the world."

Thompson will continue to hold the position of CEO for Reliance Vanco Group, which he joined from Energis, where he was director of the corporate business unit. He will report to Garg.

The Reliance Globalcom Data Business brings together its subsidiaries Reliance Globalcom (formerly known as Flag Telecom), Reliance Globalcom Services (Yipes Enterprises) and Reliance Vanco Group (Vanco Group) to create a global managed solutions provider with on- and off-net data networking capabilities and related services, offering solutions to enterprises, systems integrators, and carriers around the globe.

The Reliance Globalcom Data Business will compete with AT&T, British Telecom Global Services, Orange Business Services and Verizon Business, for medium to large MNC customers around the world, serving them directly or through channel partners. The business will also deliver wholesale solutions to carrier customers.

China

Nokia Siemens gears up for TD-SCDMA

Nokia Siemens Networks says it will ramp-up its strength of TD-SCDMA trained engineers to over 1,200 throughout China in anticipation of the upcoming increase in TD-SCDMA deployments.

The company has recently obtained the official approvals for deployment of its TD-SCDMA equipment from Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

Nokia Siemens Networks is the major supplier for China Mobile Shen Zhen TD-SCDMA network's planning, construction and optimisation. In the recent China Mobile TD-SCDMA network evaluations, Shen Zhen TD-SCDMA network performance was ranked No 1 in the big city category.

PicoChip demos TD-SCDMA femtocell & announces first customer ***Femtocell technology company, PicoChip has held the first public demonstration of its PC8808 TD-SCDMA femtocell software reference design in China and announced its general availability in the market.***

PicoChip has also named Digimoc, a Chinese femtocell developer, as its first publicly disclosed TD-SCDMA customer. Digimoc is using picoChip's PC202 device and PHY software reference design in its femtocell product.

The PicoChip software and PicoArray devices used by Digimoc support all TD-SCDMA networks, including carrier class macrocell networks. PicoChip says it will provide full support as Digimoc develops its TD-SCDMA Femtocell product.

PicoChip's PC8808 TD-SCDMA femtocell software reference design was developed in China at PicoChip's Beijing design centre. picoChip says it now powers all three 3G standards families: WCDMA (HSPA) through the picoChip PC8208/8209 reference designs; cdma2000/EvDO in partnership with GWT; and TD-SCDMA with the PC8808 reference design.

"During almost 18 months of communication and complete evaluation of the PC202, Digimoc concluded that PicoChip's differentiated product offering is one of the right choices for TD-SCDMA femto product development," said Li Jun CEO at Digimoc.

Earlier this year, the company revealed details of its second-generation PC3xx single-chip femtocell SoCs, and announced what it claimed was the industry's first LTE femtocell (Home eNodeB).

The PC8808 reference design supports HSDPA and is claimed to be the industry's lowest cost complete solution. According to PicoChip, "the single-chip PC202-based platform integrates both Node B and RNC protocol stack, and can easily integrate back into the core network using a number of different architectures including IMS, Iu-h or UMA. The design is software-defined and delivers baseband complete with upper layer software stacks. It is based on the same architecture as the picoChip PC8208/HSDPA and 8209/HSUPA WCDMA platforms."

Trapeze Networks opens second China R&D centre

Trapeze Networks is opening a research and development centre in Hangzhou, China focussing on embedded wireless technologies.

It is the company's second R&D centre in China. Trapeze Networks, a developer of enterprise wireless LAN equipment and management software, opened its Beijing R&D centre in 2006.

"Trapeze Networks continues to invest in China for three important reasons," said James Reeves, vice president of product operations. "China - and the entire region - is a huge market for Trapeze Networks so we want to ensure we're developing the

right product with the right features for this market. Second, we think that tapping the wealth of world-class engineering talent in China is giving us a competitive edge. Finally, having a Mandarin-speaking team in Hangzhou working with our manufacturing partners in Taiwan will accelerate our time to market."

The new Hangzhou R&D Centre is anticipated to employ about 50 engineers initially and Trapeze expects to more than double its staff during the next few years. The team will become an extension of Trapeze's global R&D network which has development centres in the US, Romania and China.

- **Hangzhou: home of China's largest Wi-Fi network**

In September 2008 Trapeze Networks announced that it was building China's largest Wi-Fi network, a metropolitan area network in Hangzhou. "Locating an R&D centre in Hangzhou gives our team an unprecedented opportunity to benefit from the real-life experience of implementing and maintaining the city's massive network," Reeves said.

China gets second WiFi accreditation lab

The Wi-Fi Alliance has named Shanghai-based TA Technology as an authorised test laboratory providing independent testing services to its worldwide roster of member companies.

It becomes the second Wi-Fi Alliance accredited laboratory in mainland China and one of 12 worldwide. "With more than 40 percent of our members in Asia, it is critical that we continue to expand our presence in China, and deliver the most accessible footprint of testing facilities," said Edgar Figueroa, executive director of the Wi-Fi Alliance.

TA Technology is a global certification and test service provider specialising in communications product testing. It was founded in 2000 and is also an authorised test lab for CTIA (Cellular Telecommunication and Internet Association) and has received CNAS accreditation. It also offers SAR and EMC testing for communication products and can make the corresponding CE/ FCC/ DGT certification reports for SAR.

Japan

NTT DoCoMo, Renesas, Fujitsu, & Sharp develop HSUPA platform

Renesas Technology, Fujitsu and Sharp have announced plans to jointly develop the SH-Mobile G4 single-chip LSI device and a platform incorporating it, to support the HSUPA1/HSDPA2/W-CDMA and GSM/GPRS/EDGE standards.

Development of the platform is targeted for completion by the first quarter of 2010. They say that the new SH-Mobile G4 will be fabricated with 45-nm process technology to enable highly integrated functions and extra-fast processing. It will provide enhanced functionality and improved performance for applications handling HD3 video and 3-D graphics and will support HSDPA at downlink speeds up to 7.2Mbps and HSUPA uplink speeds up to 5.7Mbps.

In 2004 NTT DoCoMo and Renesas began joint development work on the SH-Mobile G series of single-chip LSI devices. These integrate a baseband processor that supports dual-mode communication and an application processor. The SH-Mobile G4 will be the fourth product to emerge from this collaboration.

The joint development work by NTT DoCoMo expanded to include handset manufacturers such as Fujitsu and Sharp as partners in the development of mobile phone platforms. Each platform has a SH-Mobile G series product as the core component and includes a basic software suite (OS, middleware, and drivers) and a reference chipset in a single package.

The partners claim that, by using the new platforms, mobile phone manufacturers can eliminate the need to develop basic functions independently, significantly reducing development time and costs. This allows them to invest more time and resources in developing distinctive handset features and expanding their product portfolios.

Renesas plans to provide the platform to the worldwide mobile phone market, in addition to customers in Japan.

Hong Kong

PCCW abandons plans to sell off 45 percent of HKT

PCCW has abandoned its plans to auction up to a 45 percent interest in HKT.

The company says it received substantial interest and formal proposals from several bidders but the recent market downturn has significantly impacted the offers received. "The board of directors of PCCW has considered the proposals carefully and unanimously approved the discontinuation of the auction process, as the board does not believe the proposals are sufficiently attractive.," the company said.

PCCW said it still plans to proceed with the previously announced reorganisation of the businesses under HKT Group Holdings and to draw down on the new \$HK23.8 billion loan facility it recently obtained.

Group managing director, Alex Arena, said: "The board was encouraged by the interest shown in HKTGH's business. However, we strongly believe that the bids received were not sufficiently attractive for us to continue this process. We have a unique business in Hong Kong and we have a strong cash position in these turbulent times."

Singapore

NDS provides access control for DVB-H trial

NDS has revealed that it is providing, in Singapore, the core conditional access security infrastructure for the world's first commercial trial of the new OMA BCAST SCP standard, an emerging key standard for mobile TV content protection.

Mobile telecommunications providers M1, SingTel and StarHub are working with MediaCorp to run the three-month trial. Alcatel-Lucent's Mobile Interactive TV solution powers the DVB-H (Digital Video Broadcasting-Handheld) platform for the trial which includes mobile devices from Samsung and Smartcard Profile-compliant SIM cards from Gemalto.

The NDS solution is based on NDS's unified headend architecture, which is claimed to provide a single point of rights management for all video broadcasts, irrespective of the delivery networks or the rendering devices. It "supports multiple mobile broadcast profiles and multiple handsets simultaneously and cost-effectively, centralising content distribution from a single headend for consumption on multiple devices."

Bangladesh

Ericsson to extend Grameenphone network

Ericsson is to extend the capacity of Bangladeshi operator Grameenphone, network, converting it to and all-IP core network.

The move, according to Ericsson, follows tremendous growth in subscribers and resulting traffic in the Grameenphone network over the last year.

The contract covers expansion and deployment of additional parts of the GSM core and radio access network. Ericsson will also provide related support services to Grameenphone throughout the contract lifecycle.

Products supplied will include the Ericsson mobile softswitch and Ericsson MSC server blade cluster, billed as "an innovative new product that employs highly scalable and efficient blade technology...supporting up to eight million subscribers with only two cabinets." It is claimed to reduce space requirements by a further 90 percent and server energy consumption by a further 60 percent per subscriber, compared to Ericsson's current server generation.

Grameenphone and Ericsson have been partners since the Bangladeshi operator was established in 1996.

Taiwan

Chunghwa picks Alcatel Lucent switches for FTTB network

Alcatel-Lucent has signed a contract with Chunghwa Telecom to provide ethernet/MPLS product for its fibre-to-the-building (FTTB) rollout.

Chunghwa is spending \$US1.8 billion to construct an island-wide fibre optic network over a five-year period. The final goal of the project is to bring fibre optic connections to 2.4 million subscribers by 2010.

Alcatel-Lucent will supply Chunghwa with its 7450 ethernet service switch, an ethernet/MPLS aggregation device that enables carriers to provide high-bandwidth, high-speed Internet, video and voice services.

According to Alcatel-Lucent, the expansion will equip Chunghwa with higher network capacity and offer FTTB subscribers fast data transfer at download speeds of 10Mbps, 50Mbps and 100Mbps for services including high speed Internet, IPTV and Virtual Private Networks.

"Chunghwa has been a customer of our ethernet/MPLS aggregation solutions since 2005 and following a successful trial in August, Alcatel-Lucent has once again been chosen for this network expansion project," said Larry Chai, president of Alcatel-Lucent's activities in Taiwan.

Pakistan

eServGlobal teams with Averox for Pakistan market

Australian company eServGlobal has signed an agreement with OSS/BSS developer Averox under which Averox will provide systems integration and professional services for the delivery and support of eServGlobal's charging and payment solutions to telecoms service providers in Pakistan and the region.

Averox (OTCBB: AVOX) is a publicly held provider of telecommunication engineering, OSS and BSS and information technology. Its services include offshore product development, application management, project management, program management, telecommunications network deployment, management, optimisation and maintenance for small, medium and large enterprises.

According to eServGlobal CEO, Laurent Lafarge, eServGlobal products are already in use by more than 60 percent of mobile subscribers in Pakistan.

New Zealand

Telecom NZ to build nation-wide 850MHz 3G network

Telecom New Zealand has announced plans to follow Telstra's lead and build a nation-wide 3G WCDMA network operating at 850MHz.

It intends to provide coverage to approximately 97 percent of the places where New Zealanders live and work by mid 2009, which is almost a year ahead of the schedule announced by its rival Vodafone New Zealand.

Telecom NZ's 850MHz network will have a phased launch from November with the start of inbound roaming services, as well as a pilot programme "focused on ensuring a best-in-class customer experience." There will be a full launch of services by June 2009.

In June 2007, Vodafone NZ announced that it had selected Nokia Siemens Networks to build out a 3G WCDMA network operating at 900MHz. This will expand coverage of its 3G at 2100MHz, launched in August 2005, from 63 percent of the population to 97 percent with scheduled completion date of April 2010.

Telecom NZ presently operates a CDMA network and has given no indication of plans to close it down. However it has been a significant handicap in the competition with Vodafone NZ because of the much more limited range of handsets available than for GSM and 3G WCDMA and the fact that roaming options overseas are much more limited. (and of course it also missed out on revenue from the many Australians visiting New Zealand). The closure of Telstra's CDMA network made these problems particularly acute.

Users on the new network will be able to roam, in Australia, onto Telstra's Next G network. Telecom NZ CEO, Paul Reynolds, said: "With this technology Telecom will provide customers with global roaming superior to that of our competitors: our handsets will work on more than 430 networks in over 170 destinations worldwide for voice and texting, and over 110 destinations for internet data. Telecom customers visiting Australia will get service and coverage second to none, unmatched by any other New Zealand provider."

Telecom NZ says it has "committed to deploying HSPA+ (Evolved High Speed Packet Access)," in the new network but has given no indication as to what speeds will be available.

Telecom NZ says it will invest \$NZ574 in the network rollout over the next two years. It has not yet named its chosen vendor(s). Overall, Telecom now anticipates spending \$2.4 billion on capital expenditure over the next two financial years. This includes the investment already being made in fixed line broadband services and a next generation network.

Prior to its CDMA network, Telecom NZ operated a digital AMPS network. It was closed down on 31 March 2007.

Pan Asia

Verizon Bus. launches Cisco unified comms & collab service

Verizon Business claims to have become the first major US-based service provider to offer the Cisco Unified Communications Manager 6.1 platform to customers around the world, with the launch of a new managed unified communications and collaboration (UC&C) offering.

It is "aimed at helping companies enhance collaboration and productivity among mobile workforces and the extended enterprise – suppliers, partners, customers and employees."

According to Verizon, its new managed platform enables workers seamlessly to integrate communications tools such as voicemail, email and instant messaging and allows corporate IT departments to out-task the complex operations often associated with the day-to-day management of UC&C solutions. The new offering is available to customers in the US and many European countries, and a launch is planned in the Asia-Pacific region early next year.

Verizon Business claims that the offering will enable a consistent user experience through reliable productivity-enhancing applications, including: unified messaging; unified mobility and unified presence . It has named US based multinational, Del Monte Foods, as an early customer, saying that "Del Monte has deployed the new Verizon Business managed service to enhance enterprise wide productivity and has plans to leverage this platform to support the company's internal contact centre needs."

● **Cisco Unified Comms now at release 7.0**

Cisco last month announced Cisco Unified Communications System Release 7.0 as part of a larger announcement of its bid to target a \$US34b global collaboration market, Release 7.0 "offers enhancements to its applications development environment and provides deeper integration with desktop products from IBM and Microsoft...[and] mobility enhancements [to] help extend productivity features across workspaces," according to Cisco.

New leader for Verizon Business global sales team

Verizon Business has named D Blair Crump to the newly-created position of group president worldwide sales.

Since November 2006, Crump has been Verizon Business' senior vice president for international and premier sales - serving the company's top 200 accounts as well as internationally-headquartered customers.

He will oversee the company's enterprise, wholesale, government and education sales efforts worldwide, leading an organisation of more than 5,000 sales and support staff. Verizon Business has 321 offices across six continents and operations in 75 countries. The company serves 98 percent of the Fortune 500 and is the largest provider of communications services to the US federal government.

The business generated total 2007 revenues of \$US21.2 billion. It says that sales of strategic services - such as IP and managed services, including security, as well as ethernet and optical services - continued to fuel growth. These generated nearly \$US1.5 billion in revenue, up 18.7 percent from second-quarter 2007.

"We see huge opportunities in helping globally extended enterprises securely communicate with their mobile and geographically dispersed networks of employees, partners, suppliers and customers," said Verizon Business president, John Killian.

Avaya gets new chief for Asia Pacific

Avaya has appointed John DiLullo as president of its Asia Pacific region.

He will be responsible for business planning and strategy development, customer care, marketing and management of Avaya's country offices and channel partner programs in the region. He will be based in Singapore and will report to Todd Abbott, Avaya's worldwide leader of sales and field operations.

Prior to Avaya he was vice president, worldwide sales, channels and field operations at SonicWall and vice president of worldwide distribution at Cisco.

Technology

IMS Forum absorbs NGN Forum

The IMS Forum and the NGN Forum have announced a 'merger' to form the IMS/NGN Forum saying the partnership is designed to create, test and deliver NGN services.

According to a statement: "By combining IMS, SIP, unified communications and service delivery platforms, the organisation unites developers, service providers, integrators and solutions providers to further NGN and IMS deployment."

The announcement said the NGN Forum was "the pioneer in developing profitable business models for converged services targeting consumer and enterprise markets." However the IMS Forum, formed in 2006, appears to be the dominant partner. The NGN Forum URL (www.ngnforum.org) redirects to the IMS Forum URL (www.imsforum.org) and a Google search by *Exchange* produced no meaningful results on the NGN Forum prior to the merger announcement.

According to Michael Khalilian, chairman and president of the IMS/NGN Forum, it is "the first [organisation] to recognise that with increased competition in voice, entertainment and enterprise markets there is an urgent need for fixed, mobile and cable MSO service providers to partner with application development companies, digital content providers, enterprise and smart phone manufacturers, and financial institutions."

He added: "This partnership enables our members to fully address the emergence of a single market comprised of information technology (IT), telecommunications, and media sectors that formerly operated in separate markets. The IMS/NGN Forum will continue the industry leadership in IMS Interoperability and IMS Plugfests with focus in areas of IP billing, OSS, security and reliability, SIP, diameter, UC, SDP and IP video over all types of broadband networks."

The combined IMS/NGN Forum will also continue to provide marketing, education and advisory services. It claims to be the only global telecommunications association devoted to next generation network service delivery and interoperable IP multimedia subsystem services architectures and solutions.

The Forum's mission is to accelerate the interoperability of IMS and NGN services and to enable enterprise and residential consumers to benefit fully from the delivery of M-play: rich multimedia, mobility and fixed services over broadband cable, wireless, wireline, and fibre networks.

The combined organisation claims a membership of over 2000 executives and technical, business development and marketing professionals from global and emerging equipment vendors, solution providers, integrators, service providers and governmental agencies.

It has also created what it claims to be the industry's first joint venture capital study group consisting of its members and over 20 venture capitalists, private equity groups and financial institutions.

"Investors are searching for compelling high growth technologies to fulfil consumer and enterprise demand," said Peter Lazor, president of Cardinal Points, M&A and financial advisers. "The NGN Forum and IMS Forum are in a unique position to bring all of these diverse markets together."

Origins of the IMS Forum, and a rival

The IMS Forum was created in March 2006 by a rebranding of the International Packet Communications Consortium (IPCC), an international trade association

dedicated to the advancement of VoIP over broadband cable, wireline and wireless technologies.

The touted itself as "The Voice of IP Convergence" saying its mission was to accelerate the adoption of IP multimedia subsystems by providing an environment for discussion and resolution of real-world implementation issues, such as interoperability and standards-based architectures in the application layer.

Founding members were Alcatel; Aramco Services Company; Brooktrout Technology/Excel Switching; Cisco Systems; Convedia; CopperCom; Cordia Corporation; eLEC Communications /VoX Communications; Kancharla; Lignup Corporation; Newport Networks; NewStep Networks; Sonus Networks; Spirent Communications; Sprint Nextel Corporation; Sylanro Systems; Telkom RisTI; Tekelec; TMC; Trendium; Ubiquity Software; UTStarcom; VoIP; XConnect.

Shortly after it was formed, Verizon and a handful of the major equipment vendors (all key suppliers to Verizon) unveiled a set of jointly developed enhancements to the IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) which they dubbed 'Advances to IMS' (A-IMS) for which they intended to seek standardisation. Dick Lynch, executive vice president and chief technical officer at Verizon Wireless, said the company had become aware of the shortcomings of IMS as it attempted to plan building its network around it. The initial outputs of the task force were a concept document and an architecture document that are being offered to 'industry leaders'. From these documents, the task force companies said they planned to make necessary standards contributions in the immediate future.

However, a Google search has revealed nothing to indicate progress on this initiative since its announcement.

Ericsson demos wind-powered base station

Ericsson has unveiled a wind-powered mobile base station that harnesses wind power from a four-blade turbine with five-metre blades vertically attached to the tower.

It was developed with Vertical Wind AB and Uppsala University in Sweden. According to Ericsson, it "takes the energy-lean design of Ericsson's award-winning original Tower Tube one step further by employing renewable energy."

The Tower Tube was developed by Ericsson to make cell site towers less obtrusive. It won the Technology Design category of the 2008 *Wall Street Journal* Technology Innovation Awards. It "houses base stations and antennas, fully enclosing them in an aesthetically pleasing concrete tower [and] has a smaller footprint and lower environmental impact than traditional steel towers with CO2 emissions related to materials, such as production and transportation, that are at least 30 percent lower."

Nokia taps Nuance for mobile speech and predictive text

Nokia has tapped Nuance Communications to help it deliver mobile speech and predictive text on a broad range of Nokia mobile devices.

It has signed a multi-year collaboration agreement that also establishes a strategic collaboration to develop an open integration framework for advanced input technologies that, Nokia claims, will foster innovation in the broader mobile developer ecosystem.

Nuance and Nokia will collaborate on open protocols which development partners will be able to exploit to develop multimodal features, applications and consumer experiences on Nokia devices. "Through a series of open programming interfaces, language models and development tools, those partners will have access to a vibrant and dynamic environment where mobile innovation around advanced multi-modal consumer interactions can flourish," According to Nokia.