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Aperto bags BSNL order for WiMax deployment

CYBERMEDIA NEWS

Aperto Networks, a company involved in building WiMax base stations and subscriber units, has announced that it has bagged BSNL's order for rolling out carrier-grade WiMax Forum certified products.

Manish Gupta, VP—Marketing and Alliances, Aperto, said that the deployment of PacketMax base stations and subscriber units across six cities and four rural areas in India would be completed by end-2007.

"The six initial cities getting the WiMax equipment are Kolkata, Bangalore, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Pune. The deployment will also cover four rural districts in Haryana and is planned for completion in January 2007," he informed.



Manish Gupta, VP—Marketing and Alliances, Aperto making the announcement

The WiMax network will enable BSNL to offer enterprise customers a wide range of value-added, high-bandwidth data communication services, such as MPLS,

VPN, leased line and Internet access, as well as VoIP, telemedicine, e-education, e-governance and e-commerce in remote areas.

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ZED POINT

India the single largest market for WiMax

WiMax technology is ideally poised for providing highspeed broadband connectivity in the Indian region. As a standard WiMax has already evolved to quite an extent and is globally well accepted by a lot of operators. The level of acceptance can be gauged by the presence of more than 400 operators, manufacturers and other stakeholders in the WiMax forum. India can be the single largest market for a technology like WiMax—reason, the sheer vastness of the country and the number of unconnected areas and locations.

To give an example of the utility of WiMax in an arena like the Indian market, let us examine the banking sector. We all know that the RBI has recommended the usage of core-banking solutions for all banks. Private banks are toeing the line as most of their operations viz the branches are in cities and metros. On the other hand, most of the nationalized banks have their roots well established in the rural part of the country. It is here that a telecom operator will need to focus towards providing central connectivity to these banks through WiMax.

This technology when used to its full potential can solve a large number of problems, including the one of connecting small and big branches of nationalized banks. So this is the ideal time for operators, telecom equipment providers and

technology leaders to seriously look at WiMax from a rollout standpoint.

Banking is just one area where this connectivity technology can be of immense usage. Once the technology proves its usage from a business standpoint, other areas like e-governance or delivery of tele-medicine, e-education will certainly emerge as WiMax winners in their respective segments.

With the largest service provider, BSNL and VSNL already announcing their plans on WiMax, I am sure that other operators are likely to come out from the 'WiMax pilot mode' and follow suit sooner or later. And when this happens, India is surely going to be a single largest market for WiMax not only for this region but also on a global scale very soon!

Hence, this is a huge opportunity in front of the telecom channel community. The telecom channel community should now start looking at connecting themselves well with global vendors while reselling WiMax products and equipment.

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