



MEDIA RELEASE

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UK's first mobile WiMAX network to go live in Maidstone

Mobile WiMAX Acceleration Group to demonstrate real-world mobile WiMAX network in the UK

BARCELONA – 11th February 2008 – The Mobile WiMAX Acceleration Group (M-WAG), a collaboration of companies demonstrating the business case for mobile WiMAX, today announced that it will deliver the first ever UK mobile WiMAX pilot network over 2.5GHz in Maidstone, Kent. The network will go live in April and will be used to conduct multi-application user trials using mobile WiMAX.

Mobile WiMAX is an advanced technology that provides fast, robust and secure mobile broadband connectivity at a much lower cost than alternatives, enabling traditionally fixed-line only applications to become mobile.

The network will cover 7.5 square kilometres from the centre of Maidstone, which is home to over 75,000 people and 4,500 businesses. Once the network goes live in the spring, M-WAG will begin a range of trials encompassing services such as mobile VoIP, real-time high-quality video streaming and live broadcast. In addition, M-WAG will also be trialling WiFi to WiMAX handover and advanced charging systems to support any services that may be launched commercially.

Dave Lindsay, IT Manager of Maidstone Borough Council commented: "Maidstone Borough Council has always tried to be forward-looking and we are keen to be involved with new technologies that can help us to improve the delivery of existing services and allow us to launch others. M-WAG's network in Maidstone is especially exciting for us as Mobile WiMAX can deliver robust, resilient and secure data transmission at a much lower cost than other mobile alternatives. Not only will our residents benefit indirectly through improved, lower cost services, but those within the network perimeter will be able to benefit directly through using mobile WiMAX at home or for business."

Kerl Haslam, Chair of Mobile WiMAX Acceleration Group, said: "The Maidstone 2.5GHz network is the next step in M-WAG's strategy to assemble the mobile WiMAX ecosystem and demonstrate the business case for the technology. By delivering a live network operating with real world applications, we can showcase and prove the benefits of mobile WiMAX while gathering vital information on the user experience. Mobile WiMAX is ready now and presents a great opportunity to operators, service providers, businesses and consumers alike."

Three base stations with three sectors will be deployed in the area; delivering data upload speeds up to 2Mbps and download speeds up to 10Mbps within the network area. M-WAG member companies will be providing all network equipment (conforming to IEEE Standard 802.16e where relevant) and service integration. Specific service and application trial dates and details will also be announced shortly.

The Mobile WiMAX Acceleration Group was conceived to prove the technology chain required for mobile WiMAX roll-out in the UK. With the announcement of user trials in Maidstone, the group has moved one step closer to assembling the multi-vendor end-to-end supply chain ahead of Ofcom's impending spectrum auction.

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NOTES TO EDITOR

About the Mobile WiMAX Acceleration Group

The Mobile WiMAX Acceleration Group (M-WAG) seeks to bring together companies from across the telecoms and media industries with the aim of providing the components for the delivery of a commercially viable mobile WiMAX service. M-WAG intends to pre-assemble and test an end-to-end mobile WiMAX technology supply chain and carry out user trials on the network. This will enable M-WAG to explore the business case for a national wholesale and retail mobile WiMAX networks against a range of innovative new value chain business models.

Mobile WiMAX has a greater range than WiFi and is capable of providing higher bandwidth, with fast download and upload, at a much lower cost than existing wireless services. For service providers this translates into the ability to meet increasing consumer and business demand for broadband on the go. Taking the full broadband experience from the home and office onto mobile devices is a crucial next step in mobile connectivity.

Member companies as of 11th February 2008 include:

- Alvarion Ltd (NASDAQ: ALVR), the world's leading provider of WiMAX and wireless broadband solutions (www.alvarion.com)
- Bluenowhere, a municipal WiMAX & WiFi wholesale wireless network operator (www.bluenowhere.net)
- imagine, provides carrier class voice & data services to business & residential customers (www.imagine.ie)
- Macropolitan, the largest owner of exclusive telecoms rights at urban sites in the UK (www.macropolitan.com)
- Mobile-Sense, provides consumers with an independent payment channel via the mobile device (www.mobile-sense.com)
- Mott MacDonald, a management, engineering and development consultancy serving the public and private sectors world-wide (www.mottmac.com)
- National Grid Wireless, leading providers of large-scale transmission infrastructure to the providers of wireless communications services (www.nationalgridwireless.com)
- Nortel, leader in delivering communications capabilities to businesses globally (www.nortel.com)
- Quiconnect, an interconnectivity services provider for mobile broadband (www.quiconnect.com)
- Red-M, a wireless professional services company providing consultancy, audit, design, implementation, systems integration and management services (www.red-m.com)
- Urban Wimax, the UK's first commercial WiMAX operator (www.urbanwimax.co.uk)

About Mobile WiMAX

WiMAX (Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access) is a new standards-based wireless technology designed to deliver carrier-class wireless wide area network (WWAN) services. Mobile WiMAX fits into this group of wireless technologies. The WiMAX standards (IEEE 802.16x) are a complementary technology to the 802.11 wireless local area network (WLAN) standard, referred to as WiFi and now commonly used in public wireless hotspots and in home/office networks. WiMAX offers significantly greater service ranges than WiFi (from 2 – 8 Km) at up to 10Mb speeds.

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