

Verizon FiOS Goes Live in Keller, Texas Signs Agreement With Disney

BBP Staff Report

Keller, TX – Verizon started delivering FiOS video to its first few hundred customers in Keller in mid-September. The video is RF over fiber, from what Verizon calls two redundant “super headends” (in Temple Terrace, FL and Bloomington, IL). If necessary, either headend can serve the entire country, says Paul Tassinari, executive director of video network services. The video is standard MPEG2, the DVD quality that most cable operators use.

Verizon says it expects to start selling FiOS TV in Sachse, Westlake and Wylie, Texas within the next few months. Its franchise agreements are in place in all three. Texas also allows companies like Verizon to be automatically franchised in the state. Next come systems in

California, Florida, and Virginia (not necessarily in that order).

Verizon uses its nationwide Sonet network to send the RF signal to regional hubs and adds local programming (especially public, educational and government channels required under franchise terms). The video to Keller goes through Carrollton, TX.

Some VOD content gets stored at the regional servers, and all VOD (as well as the programming guide) comes to subscribers as IPTV, not RF. In contrast, SBC is planning an all-IPTV system for launch late this year or Winter 2006.

At the FiOS press conference announcing the Keller launch, Bob Ingalls, president of Verizon’s retail markets group, said the company will eventually

go entirely IP. “We’re ready to deliver IPTV when and if the software capability is there,” he said.

“We’re in the market ready to offer service because we made the decision to offer [RF] first.”

Verizon offers three set-top boxes from Motorola. One has only standard definition, one has a high-definition decoder and one has an integrated digital video recorder.

Inside the dwelling unit, coax handles the signal. IP video to the set-tops uses Multimedia Over Coax (MOCA) technology.

The set-tops can receive QAM video as well as IP Content providers are signing on. Verizon announced an agreement with Disney for 12 channels, a day before the Keller launch. **BBP**

Wave7 Optics Announces First Customer for New Trident7 Optical Access Platform

BBP Staff Report

Las Vegas – Wave7 Optics announced the first customer for its GPON/GEAPON Trident7 Optical Access Platform: Falcon Broadband, a CLEC, building a triple-play FTTP network that will connect 22,500 homes in the Colorado

Springs area. The announcement came at this year’s FTTH Council annual meeting in early October.

Falcon is targeting many mixed-use residential and commercial subdivisions in the Colorado Springs area, which are projected to grow

rapidly. The company currently has thousands of homes and commercial spaces under contract and expects to have thousands of more homes signed for the Wave7 deployment in the next several months.

“As we have immediate customer

(Wave 7 Continued...)

requirements, we want to deploy Wave7's equipment right away and the Trident7 is perfect for our needs now and in the future," said Randy DeYoung, President and CEO of Falcon Broadband. "Our LML customers will be fully supported with new features going forward and our GPON deployments will grow in features as the standards are improved."

Falcon expects to serve both sets of customers from the same rack of central office equipment. The advanced RF-return capability will make its network completely interactive, an important feature when it comes to take rates and reducing churn, Falcon says.

After recent acquisitions, Falcon Broadband now has more than 250

miles of fiber running throughout Colorado Springs and the nearby town of Falcon, putting it in a position to offer FTTP almost anywhere in the city and immediate vicinity. Falcon already has deployed FTTP to parts of Falcon and to a new development called The Gables, a project done in conjunction with Windom Community Developers in the Falcon Metro District. The builders at the present time are John Laing Homes and Beazer Homes.

Trident7 fully supports the two emerging dominant FTTP standards – IEEE 802.3ah Ethernet in the First Mile (EFM) and ITU-T G.984 Gigabit-capable PON (GPON) – as well as Wave7's widely deployed Ethernet Last Mile Link (LML) technology.

Wave7 will begin shipping, before the end of 2005, the Trident7 equipped with LML blades and will enable GPON mode for Falcon in early 2006 and thereafter. Falcon expects to connect its first customers using LML links and then switch over to GPON exclusively after it becomes available, after standards-compliant GPON chips begin shipping in early 2006.

Falcon offers "triple-play" services including digital television (with interactive services), true broadband Internet (up to 100 Mbps) and telephone (traditional as well as VoIP). The company soon will add security services on top of the triple-play package. Services are bundle priced. See www.falconbroadband.net and www.wave7optics.com. **BBP**

Earthlink to Build Wireless System in Philadelphia; San Francisco Also in Play

BBP Staff Report

Philadelphia – City officials on October 5 announced plans for the nation's biggest municipal wireless Internet access network, covering about 135 square miles. EarthLink will build and manage it. The promise is that low-income residents will get access for as little as \$10 a month. Regular customers will pay about \$20 a month for 1 Mbps symmetrical service.

Earthlink expects to build the system, using WiFi rather than WiMAX, for less than \$15 million. But these plans have yet to

be firmed up in a formal contract. The players say the deal will be signed and sealed by around December 1. Construction is to be completed by the end of 2006.

Other providers will be allowed to rent bandwidth on the network, and visitors will be able to buy short-term access. Those who already have Earthlink accounts at home or work will be able to access the network free.

In Philadelphia, Verizon already offers an introductory price of \$14.95 a month for 768 Kbps

download and 128 Kbps uploads. Regular prices are higher.

A few days earlier, San Francisco officials said 26 companies, including EarthLink, Google, and Cingular Wireless, had submitted proposals to build its wireless network, covering 47 square miles. Google's proposal is for free access throughout the city, at 300 Kbps.

It already provides free WiFi service in New York's block-wide Bryant Park, and in Mountain View, California. **BBP**

OEN selects Alloptic for Largest North America IP Video Deployment

BBP Staff Report

Las Vegas, NV – Alloptic, Inc., a pioneer in the development and deployment of Gigabit Ethernet Passive Optical Networks (GEPONs), says OEN has selected Alloptic's Network Access solution for North America's largest IP video roll-out. OEN is the first company to acquire complete IP video programming rights in the United States.

It is based in Houston, where it is launching FISION, the first major market deployment of video, Internet and voice to residential and commercial customers over a system specifically designed to optimize Fiber-to-the-home technology. The company is a platinum member of the FTTH Council.

OEN has an exclusive agreement with a local utility and cable TV company, Phonoscope (www.phonoscope.com) to offer the service over its 8,000 mile fiber optic network in the Houston area. Services offered include 2-way gigabit Internet access

to the home, a much greater capacity for niche market programming (community programming, telemedicine, the largest collection of Latino content in the US, music channels, etc.), and advanced video-on-demand services not possible on existing satellite and cable networks.

Some details: OEN will deliver over 400 television channels, including 40 channels of HDTV. In addition, OEN will offer video-on-demand, subscription video-on-demand, pay-per-view specials and events and original programming created by OEN Studios, the creative television production arm of Optical Entertainment Network. The combination of FTTH and OEN's fiber technology allows OEN to have the largest programming lineup of any multi-channel video provider in North America. More information can be found at the company's website, www.4fiber.tv.

"Alloptic is the first PON vendor

we found that has the ability to stand up to the rigorous demands of IP video and IP HDTV, in particular," said Allen Easty, Chief Technical Officer, Optical Entertainment Network. "Working together, we will deliver state-of-the-art IP services to the 1 million residents of Houston, the nation's 10th largest television market."

Alloptic's access network solution has been deployed around the world and offers four years of operational history. It leverages a standard ITU PON architecture, while delivering a gigabit of bandwidth. With a native ability to support traditional TDM voice over an Ethernet-based platform, Alloptic is able to provide telephone services while seamlessly supporting next-generation services like IP HDTV.

Founded in 1999, Alloptic is privately held and based in Livermore, California. For more information, see www.alloptic.com. **BBP**

NTS Communications Selects Coaxsys' TVnet for in-Home IPTV

From BBP Wires

Los Gatos, CA – Coaxsys says NTS Communications has begun deploying TVnet as a "critical component" of its IPTV launch. NTS, one of the largest privately held fiber-to-the-home providers in the US, will tap

TVnet to increase the speed of its IPTV deployments, which began in 2004.

With operations that stretch throughout Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Nevada, Colorado,

and Arizona, NTS has for the past 25 years been a major player in the local, data, and long-distance markets. NTS is one of the largest companies in the Southwest US to launch triple play services. It has more than

(NTS Communications Continued...)

60,000 customers.

NTS is using Coaxsys' IPTV 7000 network, which is deployed by more than fifty telephone companies across the country. Additionally, NTS is one of the first companies to deploy Coaxsys' new TVnet/AC, an Ethernet-over-Coax adapter specifically designed for compatibility with Amino's AmiNET set-top boxes. The IPTV 7000 network enables telcos to use a home's existing coaxial cable to distribute multiple IP video streams throughout a subscriber's home without having to rewire with Cat-5 cable.

The announcement marks a significant relationship between a cutting-edge equipment manufacturer

and one of the country's leading IPTV deployers. Since March 2004, NTS has been expanding its FTTH service area in order to offer video-on-demand, PVR networking, and HDTV to more customers.

Coaxsys is a leader in high-speed multimedia networking over coaxial cable. TVnet transforms coax receptacles into a high performance multimedia network, allowing people to network TVs, PVRs, video game consoles, computers, security systems, and more—without having to rewire their homes or buildings with CAT-5 cable. Coaxsys also licenses its TVnet technology to partners, such as set-top box and semiconductor companies,

that wish to make their products TVnet-Ready.

Coaxsys is headquartered in Los Gatos, California. For more information, visit www.coaxsys.com.

NTS Communications is one of the largest privately owned integrated communication companies in the nation. It was founded in 1981 as a West Texas long distance provider. Its wholesale operations include intercity and intracity transport capacity using more than 7,000 route miles of fiber optic cable, switched termination/origination services, and wholesale data services to more than 50 other service providers. For more information, see www.ntscom.com or www.nts-online.net. **BBP**

Omneon Server to Support 12 Digital Feeds to 60 Paxson Stations Across U.S.

From BBP Wires

Sunnyvale, CA – Omneon Video Networks says Paxson Communications Corporation, owner and operator of the nation's largest broadcast television station group, has selected the Omneon Spectrum media server system to sit at the heart of a newly rebuilt network operations center (NOC).

It will provide on-air programming and commercial content for 12 digital streams, main programming feeds, and backhaul channels, delivered via satellite.

"We chose the Omneon server ...because it offers ... an open ar-

chitecture and system scalability that will enable us to handle future changes and growth easily," said Paxson VP of Network Operations Mark Greenlee.

The Omneon server has 10 inputs and 20 outputs, with both main and backup server systems for a fully mirrored operation. Each of these two systems currently has a capacity of just over eight terabytes, or 1,200 hours of playout at 10 Mbps.

The server system operates with Harris automation and Masstech asset management software and is expected to go fully on air by

the end of the year.

Its open architecture supports a broad variety of third-party applications for control and transmission, media management, archiving, and collaborative production. easy for us to upgrade when that time comes."

Paxson reaches 84 percent of prime time television households in the United States via its broadcast television station group and through arrangements with cable and satellite distribution systems.

More information about Omneon is available on their website at www.omneon.com. **BBP**

ICG Communications Helps Revol Expand Wireless Services in Ohio

From BBP Wires

Englewood, CO – ICG Communications has reached an agreement with Cleveland Unlimited, doing business as Revol, to provide the entire core fiber communications network for Revol’s wireless phone service. The agreement allows Revol, which currently offers service in the Cleveland/Akron area, to expand its low-cost, flat-rate wireless services to the Columbus and Indianapolis markets.

Revol also operates eight retail

stores and 90 dealer locations in northeast Ohio. Said Rocky Crossland, CEO of Revol, “this agreement has saved us a substantial amount of money, which allows us to expand our business and provide our extraordinary value proposition in Columbus and Indianapolis.”

ICG provides voice and Internet services to businesses, government agencies and resellers doing business in Colorado and Ohio. ICG delivers better bandwidth than its

competitors through fiber that is close to its customers. Services include VoicePipe, ICG’s hosted VoIP product; iConverge, a converged voice and data product; dedicated Internet access; PRI; Long Distance; Ethernet transport services; and private line transport services. ICG provides services to carriers, ISPs, VARs, government agencies, and companies of all sizes. For more information visit them on the web at www.icgcomm.com. **BBP**

Golfers Get Their Own “Broadband” Service

From BBP Wires

Egham, UK – The British Professional Golfers Association (PGA) and Viatel have joined in a three year deal to supply golf club professionals and the golfing community with their own broadband service, complete with live and exclusive content.

The service will be launched as PGA Broadband and content will be produced by In the Box Media. It will include live and on-demand content that is fairly close to TV broadcast quality. Streamed video bit-rates can be set for access rates up to 800 Kbps.

It starts November 15, is packaged for sale through 4,500 PGA club pros to club members and oth-

er golfers across the UK, with an estimated market of over five million.

The exclusive content package will include news feeds, interviews with tour professionals, coaching and lessons; all of which can be viewed on-demand. Other features will include equipment advice, and test-drives of the latest clubs by PGA professionals, travel deals, recommendations on golf destinations and betting tips.

Viatel Broadband Limited is already working in partnership with major soccer clubs to supply a broadband service. Lucy Woods, CEO of Viatel, said; “We are delighted to extend our ability to offer sports fans uniquely tailored content that

appeals directly to the individual’s passion for their club or sport.”

There are over 24 million households in the UK, of which 99.6 percent are ready for DSL broadband.

Currently 13 million of those have Internet access, with up to 40 percent already on broadband and the remaining eight million still on dial up.

Viatel is a Pan-European Telecoms Service Provider and ISP. It provides IP and connectivity services to business customers of all sizes across Europe, and also specializes in next generation Internet services for sports fans. Viatel has been in business since 1991. **BBP**

Corning Total Access Program Adds More Member Companies

From BBP Wires

Hickory, North Carolina – Corning Cable Systems has added more companies to its Total Access Program, joining Team Fishel (*Broadband Properties*, September). Introduced earlier this year, TAP provides highly qualified design, engineering, furnishing and installation companies with the tools necessary to ensure successful fiber-to-the-home deployments. The new additions are Zero dB, Zoomy Communications and Quanta Services

Certified TAP members receive all-inclusive access to Corning's FTTH solution. After completing specialized training in the installation of optical access networks, TAP members are able to offer their customers up to a 10-year extended product warranty on complete Corning FTTH solutions (drop cables and assemblies carry a 3-year warranty).

Quanta Services is a leading provider of specialized contracting services, delivering end-to-end network solutions for the electric power, gas, telecommunications and cable television industries. The company's comprehensive services include designing, installing, repairing and maintaining network infrastructure nationwide.

Founded in 1994, Zero dB is an engineering and consulting firm that creates FTTH network and facility solutions to meet the broad spectrum of voice, video and data needs of its clients. The company is currently planning, engineering and implementing FTTH networks for municipalities, greenfield real estate developers and public utility districts around the globe. Zero dB is the only engineering company that

maintains its own interoperability lab for the benefit of its clients.

Zoomy Communications was founded in 2002 and has quickly become a leader in providing turn-key FTTH services for the real estate development industry. ZoomyCo has provided FTTH services for more than 20 real estate communities and has provided FTTH engineering services for some of the largest municipal FTTH projects in the country.

For additional information on Corning Cable Systems, contact a customer service representative at 800-743-2675, or visit www.corning.com/cablesystems.

For information on Corning optical fiber, contact 800-525-2524, or visit them at www.corning.com/opticalfiber. **BBP**

New Panasonic Technology Expands HomePlug

From BBP Wires

Tokyo – Just when many thought the HomePlug standard for turning electrical wiring into Ethernet pathways was moribund, Matsushita Electric Industrial, the corporate parent of Panasonic, has announced a new chip for such device.

Matsushita's system delivers high-speed broadband at up to 170Mbps, twice the speed of existing products. Matsushita hopes to eventually sell refrigerators, TVs and other products with the chip already installed.

A network-connected refrigerator

might allow users to connect from a mobile phone or laptop to download a shopping list, or connect to appliances such as washing machines or air-conditioners, controlling them from outside the home.

Matsushita official Tomiya Miyazaki said that even homes with optical fiber connections don't have broadband outlets in every room, and people are tired of setting up gadgets with their home wireless LAN device. "Our goal is to have every gadget plugged in this way so that people

don't have to even think about connecting it to broadband," he said.

Samples of the technology are being made available to other Japanese electronics makers that may wish to use it for their products, Matsushita officials said. Acceptance of the technology is more likely in Europe and the United States because of stricter regulations over power line use in Japan, according to Matsushita. The company is in talks with the Japanese government to have regulations eased. **BBP**

NeoPhotonics Introduces Bi-Directional SFF & SFP Transceiver Product Line and Small Form Factor Devices for FTTH

BBP Staff Report

Las Vegas – NeoPhotonics introduced a new product line of SFF & SFP Bi-Directional transceivers at the FTTH Conference in Las Vegas. Bi-directional SFF and SFP transceivers simplify FTTH network architectures, reducing capital and operating expenses

“Bi-directional transceivers that operate over a single strand of fiber are key in lower cost FTTH applications,” said Jeffrey Lo, Vice President of active components at NeoPhotonics. “The single fiber concept reduces system cost, doubles capacity and simplifies network design and fiber management. Combining this advantage with the MSA compliant form factors of SFF and SFP transceivers is key to reducing capital and operating expenditures in FTTH deployments.”

“These bi-directional transceivers extend our line of SFF & SFP transceivers for Fast

and Gigabit Ethernet in FTTH applications,” said Tim Jenks, CEO of NeoPhotonics. “In addition to our bi-directional transceivers for FTTH applications, we also have a complete line of single mode and CWDM SFF and SFP transceivers for SONET/SDH, Ethernet and Fiber Channel applications.”

Now available for initial shipments, the bi-directional transceivers operate at data rates from 125 Mbps to 1.25 Gbps and are compliant with IEEE 802.3ah Ethernet in the First Mile (EFM) standards. The devices meet the SFP and SFF-8472 MSA standards. The SFF transceivers offer various pigtailling options and the SFP transceivers are hot-pluggable. The transceivers incorporate either MQW-FP or DFB lasers at 1310, 1490 and 1550 nm. The receiver designs are based on PIN diodes.

At the show, the company also introduced

small form factor PLC Power Splitters for FTTH applications. “With several larger scale FTTH deployments ongoing around the world, customer demand is driving the PLC splitter package size to ever smaller dimensions,” said Chris Pfistner, director global access business at NeoPhotonics. “With our new splitters we are combining the class leading performance of our standard size devices with the benefits of an ultra compact package that measures just 4 x 4 x 40 mm. This is about the size of a standard fiber splice today.”

The splitters are now available in 1x4, 1x8, 1x16 and 1x32 configurations. NeoPhotonics’ splitter modules offer class leading low insertion loss, low PDL, high uniformity and are compliant with Telcordia 1209 and 1221 reliability requirements. For more information visit www.neophotonics.com. **BBP**

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