

Independent Telcos and FTTH

Our monthly summary of news of special interest to independent telephone companies

By Masha Zager ■ *Contributing Editor*

ComSpanUSA (www.comspanusa.net), a CLEC based in Roseburg, Oregon, in a joint venture with Ledcor Technical Services, a network development, design and integration provider, is preparing to offer fiber optic-based triple-play services in the coastal resort town of Bandon, Oregon. The service will use Hitachi fiber-to-the-home technology. The IPTV technology, which is being integrated by Tut Systems, is based on Tut's Astria content processor platform, Kasenna's LivingRoom middleware platform and MediaBase VOD servers, and SecureMedia's Encryptonite ONE System conditional access/DRM software for broadcast and VOD content security.

The Mabel Telephone Cooperative Company (www.mabeltel.coop), an ILEC in Mabel, Minnesota, is upgrading its access network using the TelStrat Inteleflex Broadband Loop Carrier Platform. The carrier will be able to offer services through both copper and fiber to its 1,800 subscribers from the same platform. It will begin by offering voice and high-speed data over copper, add IPTV and other advanced services later, and eventually migrate to fiber-to-the-home-based services. TelStrat supplied Mabel Telephone with new, environmentally hardened cabinets while also retrofitting a number of existing sites.

SureWest Communications (www.surewest.com), an ILEC in Roseville, California, has approved Allied Telesyn's iMAP integrated Multiservice Access Platform and RG634 ADSL residential gateway for multiple applications within the company's network. SureWest will use the new equipment for cellular telephone traffic backhaul, among other purposes. The iMAP will be installed at cell sites to bypass leased copper T1 lines and instead transport signals over SureWest's extensive fiber infrastructure. SureWest has been using Allied Telesyn's FTTH residential gateways since 2003.

Wilkes Telephone & Electric Company (www.nuz.net), an ILEC in Lincolnton, Georgia, has begun construction of a FTTH project in a rural area of Lincoln County, Georgia, where the company sees a "pent-up demand for high-speed Internet access." WT&E plans to roll out the fiber project in phases, using Calix PON technology, and will offer triple-play services to residents.

The **U.S. Government Accountability Office**, in a recent report, urged the FCC to develop cost/benefit information on options for expanding rural access to broadband. The report found that households in rural areas were less likely to subscribe to broadband service, compared with households in urban and suburban areas. The extent of the gaps, however, were difficult to measure because FCC collects data based on where subscribers are served, not where providers have deployed broadband infrastructure. GAO believes that these data may not always provide a very accurate depiction of broadband deployment for residential service. The report is available at www.gao.gov/new.items/d06426.pdf.

Ayersville Telephone in Ohio (www.ayersvilletelco.com), **Monroe Telephone** in Oregon (www.monroetel.com), **Wilkes Telecommunications** in North Carolina (www.wilkes.net), **Panhandle Telephone Cooperative** in Oklahoma (www.ptsi.net) and **CC Communications** in Nevada (www.cccomm.net) are all using an in-home "smart WiFi" system from Ruckus Wireless to support distribution of digital multimedia content. Typically, triple-play providers wire or rewire homes to get multimedia content from the broadband



VENDOR SPOTLIGHT

Allied Telesyn: www.alliedtelesyn.com

Alloptic: www.alloptic.com

Calix: www.calix.com

Hitachi: www.hitachitelecom.com

Ledcor: www.ledcor.com

Tut: www.tutsys.com

Kasenna: www.kasenna.com

Ruckus Wireless: www.ruckuswireless.com

SecureMedia: www.securemedia.com

Telstrat: www.telstrat.com

gateway to televisions and other multimedia devices located in different rooms – an expensive and time-consuming process. Then, if the customer makes any changes or additions, the provider must send installers back again. With the Ruckus wireless system, installation takes less than an hour, no wiring is involved, new televisions or connections can be added without a truck roll, and new services can be enabled remotely.

Metrostat (www.metrostat.net), a CLEC located in Sylva, North Carolina, is deploying fiber to the business with Alloptic's GePON access solution. Metrostat provides high-speed data, Ethernet transport, and TDM-based telephone services to the business community.

Connexion Technologies (www.cnnxtech.com) of Cary, North Car-

olina, formerly Capitol Infrastructure, has selected IP Triple Play solutions from Allied Telesis (another company that recently changed its name, from Allied Telesyn, as it adopted the name of its corporate parent) to provide fiber-to-the-premise communications. The first deployment will take place in a 400-unit condominium high-rise complex scheduled for completion in summer, 2006.

Connexion Technologies estimates that as many as 200,000 new subscribers may be added to its subscriber base as a result of the new technology, which will allow the company to migrate to pure Ethernet/IP triple play.

Connexion will use Allied Telesis's products to deliver services over an active Ethernet network. With the iMAP integrated Multiservice Ac-

cess Platform, iMG intelligent Multiservice Gateway and Layer 2/3 switches, Connexion Technologies will offer its customers a dedicated 100Mbps service per subscriber.

The bandwidth provided by its active FTTP solution is unattainable with the shared bandwidth of current passive optical networks (PON), according to Allied Telesis.

Currently, Connexion Technologies is using PON solutions with an RF video overlay. With the new equipment, the company can migrate from RF video to Switched Digital Video without replacing gateways at the home, allowing service providers partnering with Connexion to continue using existing RF head-ends that have not reached the end of their life or depreciation schedule. **BBP**

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