

ECI Adds FTTB Solutions to Fiber Access Portfolio

From BBP Wires

PETAH TIKVA, ISRAEL – ECI Telecom (www.ecitele.com) added two new optical network terminals (ONTs) to its broadband access product suite, specifically targeting fiber-to-the-building requirements. The two new units – the G-PowerAM 48V and the MiniCAB 8V, both available in Q2 2008 – address different requirements, though both allow service providers to meet demand for higher bandwidth in a cost-effective manner.

The G-PowerAM 48V is optimized for large multiple dwelling units in densely populated areas. Featuring GPON connectivity to the building and VDSL2 within the premises, it allows service providers to support as many as 48 subscribers on one unit. The G-PowerAM 48V is

based on network-processor technology, supporting advanced multiplay service-enabling intelligence functionality.

For areas with smaller residential buildings, the MiniCAB 8V is a compact device that supports up to eight subscribers and offers service providers the versatility to deploy either a Gigabit Ethernet or GPON uplink, along with VDSL2 inside the site.

Deploying the G-PowerAM or the MiniCAB along with ECI's Hi-FOCuS Multi-Service Access Node Optical Line Terminator (OLT) allows service providers to leverage existing in-building copper wiring to provide additional bandwidth, resulting in considerable cost savings.

Ron Levin, associate VP of product marketing at ECI Telecom, explains that ECI added these new models to its

24-port FTTB ONT to give deployers more flexibility. "There's no one-size-fits-all solution, even in the same network," he says. "It's a question of what's most economical."

A wide range of devices offering a breadth of capacity lets service providers choose the most optimized platform for any deployment scenario. They can transition gradually by continuing to offer DSL where required and grow fiber as customers' demand increases. Providers who have already deployed ECI's MSANs for DSL can leverage their existing investment when migrating to fiber, because the Hi-FOCuS MSAN can be used to deploy FTTB as well as FTTH networks. All access units can be managed under ECI's OPS centralized element management system (EMS).

Alcatel-Lucent Debuts New GPON and FTTB Technology

From BBP Wires

PARIS – Alcatel-Lucent (www.alcatel-lucent.com) announced major capacity innovations to its GPON platform. The newest release of the 7342 ISAM FTTH features 250 Gbps switching capacity per network termination module and supports load sharing between the two NTs in a single shelf. These innovations guarantee the platform's nonblocking, future-proof characteristics for the deployment of IPTV, video-on-demand and other broadband services – and can be added to the Alcatel-Lucent GPON shelves that are currently being shipped.

Also new is the platform's uplink capacity, with two 10 Gbps and two 1 Gbps uplinks per NT providing the nonblocking throughput that is needed for the delivery of high-bandwidth, con-

verged triple play services to consumers and business customers.

In a separate announcement, Alcatel-Lucent introduced a fiber-to-the-building solution that allows operators to deliver up to 100 Mbps over copper in multiple dwelling unit environments, where introducing fiber can be difficult. DSL service providers in markets that use the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) standards can complement their CO and cabinet deployments, and bring fiber closer to the subscriber whenever the installation of street cabinets is not an option.

Alcatel-Lucent's FTTB portfolio includes four new products, all of which deliver VDSL over the copper twisted pair in MDUs. The products not only use standard Gigabit Ethernet and GPON network aggregation links, but also support Alcatel-Lucent's

"distributed DSLAM" model – a network architecture in which the remote DSLAMs are managed as remote line cards connected to a central host. This model reduces the number of nodes by a factor of 24, resulting in lower capital expenditures and more cost-effective operations due to fewer software upgrades, re-use of line cards and fewer systems to configure and maintain.

"Alcatel-Lucent recognizes that many of our customers are seeking a 'fiber to the most economical point' approach to deliver cost-effective, high-quality services to their customers," comments Luis Martinez Amago, president of Alcatel-Lucent's fixed access activities. "Our FTTB portfolio is an optimized, scalable solution that offers service providers quick time to market in areas where the deployment of street cabinets is not economically feasible."

Blandin Foundation Announces Community Broadband Resource Program in Minnesota

From BBP Wires

GRAND RAPIDS, MN – Blandin Foundation (www.blandinfoundation.org) announced a new Community Broadband Resource Program (CBR), offering technical and business consulting services to rural Minnesota communities that are interested in researching, developing or advancing broadband capacity. Participating communities receive services at no charge.

CBR is the most recent program addition to Blandin Foundation's Broadband Initiative, which also includes the "Get Broadband" and "LightSpeed" grant programs, the Blandin on Broadband blog and the Open Networks Feasibility Fund. The initiative is guided by

a 16-member Strategy Board representing a broad range of private and public perspectives.

In designing this program, Blandin Foundation has applied its broadband experience gained from working with leadership in 29 rural communities.

Bill Coleman, project leader for the program, says, "This program will be customized for each community because when it comes to broadband decision-making, we know that no two communities have the same set of challenges or priorities...We help identify and clarify key community priorities, involve project stakeholders and assist community leaders in developing their plans and understanding their planning

needs – whatever would help them move forward to the next step."

Community leaders may apply for Community Broadband Resource Program assistance by downloading or completing the application form online at www.blandinfoundation.org. Applications will be accepted anytime between January 2008 and December 2009. This program will provide, free of charge, up to 32 hours of high-level consulting services for each of 15 rural Minnesota communities. Services delivered will depend upon the needs of each community and could include technical assessments, establishing priorities, planning, market development and business expertise to help organize joint ventures with providers.

Allied Telesis Launches New Fiber Access Products

From BBP Wires

CHIASSO, SWITZERLAND – Allied Telesis has launched two new products: the FX20BX (AT-TN-139-A), a 20-port bidirectional FTTP service module for its iMAP (integrated Multiservice Access Platform) family; and the AT-iBG915FX, an intelligent business gateway (iBG).

The FX20BX module slots into the iMAP chassis and doubles the available port density. Network service providers can configure and monitor each port separately and align it to customer needs – for example, they can charge one customer based on maximum speed per month, another on bandwidth per month and a third on timed services. The card delivers 100 Mbps (full duplex) over a single fiber per port and supports additional Layer 2 switching, helping providers meet demand for multicast IP video, VoD, voice and data services. Because it is IP triple play enabled, providers can respond to increased bandwidth

requirements resulting from services like high-definition television. Designed for outdoor deployment, the FX20BX resists heat and cold.

The FX20BX provides tools for port configuration and monitoring, including:

- Controlling or limiting subscriber access
- Enforcing port security rules
- Limiting services to one port
- Configuring and managing quality of service per service and per port, including four queues and priority scheduling
- Supporting network double-tagging (HVLAN)
- Controlling ingress and egress service rates.

Allied Telesis' second product, the AT-iBG915FX, is a broadband business gateway for small and midsized companies, enabling access to reliable, high-performance voice and data services as well as multiple channels of standard-definition and high-definition TV.

Featuring an SFP module, the AT-iBG915FX can provide either dual-fiber single-mode or single-strand single-mode fiber access. FTTH deployers can use existing fiber infrastructure between the CO or remote cabinet and new developments, reducing the costs of deploying revenue-generating FTTH equipment.

The gateway is a response to providers that are addressing the fast-growing small business sector. Small and midsized companies require highly available voice and data services with fast and reliable uplink connections, as well as new VoIP-enabled phones. The iBG's VoIP support includes native SIP, MGCP and H.323 interfaces for four ISDN and up to four FXS ports, as well as an embedded SIP proxy for VoIP phones connected to one of the six 10/100Mbps LAN interfaces. VoIP interoperability has been established with major soft-switch vendors. QoS is provided by type of service (ToS), priority tagging of voice traffic using IEEE 802.1p, as well as silence suppression and local generation of comfort noise.

Omnitron Adds to iConverter NID Portfolio

From *BBP Wires*

NASHVILLE – Omnitron Systems Technology (www.omnitron-systems.com), a provider of fiber optic access systems for Carrier Ethernet networks, announced several additions to its portfolio of iConverter Network Interface Devices (NIDs). (A NID is a device that serves as the demarcation point between the carrier's local loop and the customer's network.) The four new NIDs are carrier-grade, Metro Ethernet Forum (MEF)-certified solutions designed for use in telco, cable and utility networks to support copper-to-fiber, fiber-to-fiber and copper-to-copper demarcation with fixed copper, fiber or Small Form Pluggable (SFP) ports.

The new iConverter NIDs are:

- 10/100M2 for 10/100 UTP to 100Fx fiber applications
- 2FXM2 for 100Fx fiber-to-fiber applications
- GX/TM2 for 10/100/1000 UTP to UTP and UTP to Gigabit Fiber applications
- 2GXM2 for Gigabit fiber-to-fiber applications

All four new models provide fiber access for Carrier Ethernet services with MEF 9- and MEF 14-certified compliant demarcation at the customer premises. The new NIDs support the IEEE 802.3ah (EPON) specification for fault detection and Operations, Administration and Maintenance (OAM) capabilities in the first mile, and Iometrix cNode end-to-end fault detection and performance monitoring. They feature fixed

ports or SFP transceivers that support standard 100BASE-Fx and 1000BASE-X wavelengths, or Coarse Wave Division Multiplexing (CWDM) technology.

All are available as stand-alone modules and as plug-in modules that can be installed in a variety of compact chassis with multiport configurations for business complexes and multiple tenant buildings.

Key features include granular bandwidth controls for tiered service offerings, VLAN with Q-in-Q to provide E-Line and E-LAN services, quality of service, extended temperature ranges from -40° to 75° C, and integrated SNMP management that can be accessed by Omnitron's NetOutlook network management software, or third-party SNMP management software.

Draka Announces FTTH Design Solution

From *BBP Wires*

AMSTERDAM – Optical fiber supplier Draka (www.draka.com) announced Draka XS.Net, a solution for designing, planning, implementing and maintaining passive fiber-to-the-home networks. Draka XS.Net is based on an economic model that yields lower costs and control over capital and operating expenses.

The solution is targeted to the needs of investors, municipalities, operators, utility companies and property developers seeking to enter the FTTH marketplace. It covers aerial, direct-buried, microduct and sewer system construction, helping network builders design, plan and put into place fiber networks, together with a full bill of material, up through final network certification and ongoing maintenance.

“The availability of this advanced solution is a major step towards the standardization of the construction of passive layer infrastructures for the thousands of fiber projects that will be developed

over the next decade,” says Karel Helsen, broadband director for Draka Comteq. “What we are announcing with Draka XS.Net is a unique high-level service capability that simplifies passive architecture build-out. It comprises human expertise on proven FTTH projects with a methodology that gives predictable pricing for fiber projects and a control of the entire supply chain that will keep capex and opex under control.”

Draka plans to offer Draka XS.Net as a full, dedicated service (beginning this winter) or as an outsourced solution, working together with contracting and civil engineering companies who will be certified to use Draka XS.Net modeling tools, logistics and planning software. Certification will be accomplished through new training facilities that Draka is putting in place in its European offices. In addition, Draka plans to license its proprietary Draka XS.Net software to engineering consultants in order to extend fiber network building expertise to a broader range of market sectors and geographical areas.

Draka also announced that its network management suite will be an integral part of the Draka XS.Net package of services and products. The Draka Software Management Suite comprises four integrated software tools that cover network design, project management, identification and registration and installation planning. The tools were developed from Draka's turnkey project experience of building traditional telecom networks in Saudi Arabia, Ghana, Indonesia, Turkey and other urban areas around the world. Typically, the software allows an engineer to handle and manage all of the functional tasks necessary to control a major FTTH project.

Draka says the software suite has proven itself in FTTH projects such as Amsterdam's CityNet with savings of over €2 million (about \$3 million). In building the first phase of the Amsterdam FTTH network, the Draka software system accelerated customer connection time and cost by automating the project flow for approvals, permits, logistics and contractor participation.

Pannaway Adds 2.5 GPON and Non-Blocking Fabric to Its Product Line

From *BBP Wires*

PORTSMOUTH, NH – Pannaway Networks (www.pannaway.com), an active fiber network vendor that acquired GPON supplier TelStrat last year, has merged the two fiber-to-the-home technologies in a single chassis. It recently announced the availability of 2.5 GPON access modules for its MAGNM-20 Multi-Service Access Platform (MSAP). “The Service Convergence Network architecture allows us to add upgrades to the core network we’ve built with Pannaway over the last two years, as we prepare to add more than 200 fiber-to-the-home subscribers,” says Bill Fogg, network planner for Waits-

field and Champlain Valley Telecom in Vermont. “And, as we add area schools to our Pannaway solution, the promise of zero downtime is very important.”

Telcos now have the flexibility to deliver high-density 2.5 GPON along with Active Ethernet and copper from the same MSAP. Pannaway calls its MAGNM-20 the industry’s most dense, carrier-class, non-blocking GPON platform based on Ethernet. It can be seamlessly upgraded to support new access technologies without any disruption to existing network operation.

Adding muscle to flexibility, Pannaway also announced the availability of a new 10 GbE transport fabric for the MAGNM-20. This new high-perfor-

mance fabric will help telcos upgrade their MAGNM-20 platforms to support emerging high-bandwidth applications. The new 10 GbE transport fabric can also be deployed without causing disruption to a telco’s operational network.

Highlights of the GPON offering include:

- Four 2.5/1.2 OLT ports, with a total service capacity exceeding 2,300 end points per chassis
- Can be upgraded without network disruption
- Small-form-factor pluggable optical transceivers; Class B+ GPON bidirectional optical transceivers
- Managed seamlessly via Pannaway’s Broadband Access Manager.

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