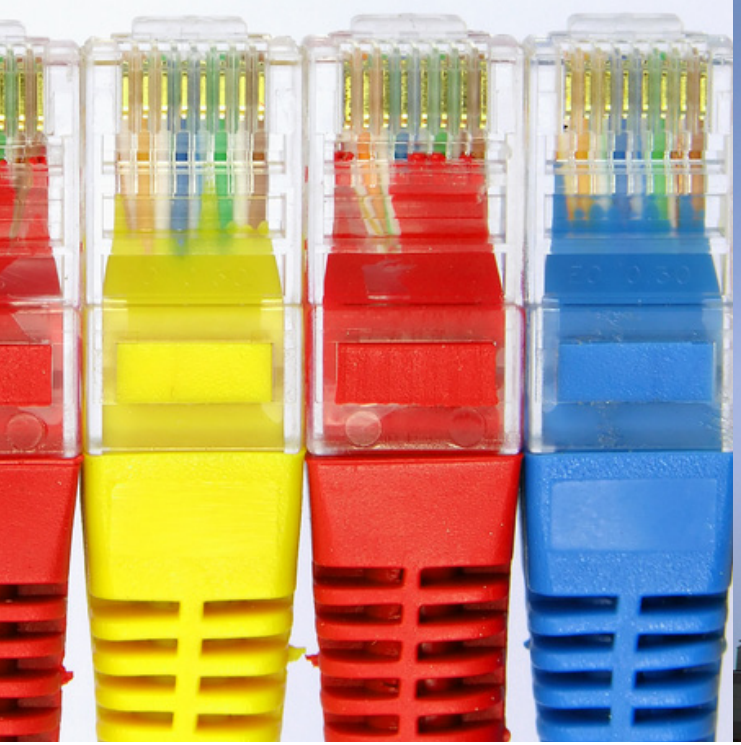

Russian Satellite Communications Company

Broadband & Satellite Russia Newsletter

№ 52

April 15–30, 2013

COMNEWS

| MOSCOW | RUSSIA |

Russian Satellite
Communications Company

The World is United
via Satellite Communications

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Russian Satellite Communications Company at Sviaz-Expocomm, May 14-17th

Russian Satellite Communications Company (RSCC) will showcase new capacities of the Russian orbital group in the field of state-of-the-art satellite and broadcasting services delivered in partnership with the leading European satellite operator Eutelsat.

This year, the RSCC's participation in the exhibition will be marked by live broadcasts from the RBC-TV studio onsite. On the first day of the event, May 14th, news blocks will feature interviews with Sviaz-Expocomm-2013 guests and participants, industry regulators and leading enterprises.

Exposition of the RSCC will be hosted at an open area between the pavilions №8 and 'Forum'. Apart from interactive demonstration of services offered by the RSCC and Eutelsat, it will feature mobile TV reporting units where specialists from the RSCC and RBC will display new technical solutions and capacities of broadband satellite television.

This will be a ground-breaking experience for all parties involved: it's the first time ever that the TV network will use a VSAT station operating in Ka-band along with conventional mobile TV units (Fly & drive away) to organize live broadcasts.

There will be WiFi in the Moscow metro

By Vedomosti.ru

After the auction for WiFi in the Moscow metro had failed twice due to a lack of bids, the city administration offered the project to "Russian towers", an independent owner of antenna mast structures in Russia. The Russian capital's administration will select a contractor to pull a leaky feeder cable which WiFi routers in the metro cars will connect to, in the tunnels and build all the related infrastructure to be leased to the operators. According to general director of "Russian Towers" Dmitry Nelubov, his company has already discussed the plan with officials from a dedicated department in the Moscow administration. He assumed the project may pay off if at least two lease takers come in.

To make the WiFi work in the underground, tunnels and metro stations should be equipped with 3G and 4G networks, said Alhas Mirzabekov, Morton Group director for telecom business development. According to him, it may cost about $192 mln.

Russia's Proton-M puts Canadian satellite into orbit

By RIA Novosti

A Russian Proton-M carrier rocket launched in the middle of April from the Baikonur space center delivered a Canadian telecommunications satellite, Anik-G1, into orbit, a spokesman for Russia's Federal space agency said. It separated from the Briz-M at the designated time and control over the satellite has been passed to the client the Canadian Telesat. Anik-G1 was built by US company Space Systems/Loral for the Canadian Telesat. It will provide telecommunications services in three regions: 24 active C-band transponders and 12 Ku-transponders for South America; 16 extended Ku-band transponders designated for DTH Shaw Direct – provider of satellite TV services in Canada; and 3 X-band channels for government services over the Americas and part of the Pacific Ocean.

The spacecraft has the life span of 15 years.

MTS will roll out its own LTE

© ComNews

Russia's largest mobile operator MTS is planning to build its own LTE networks. However, possibility of MVNO operations is reduced to a limited number of regions, said the company's president Andrey Dubovskov.

In 2012, MTS and Skartel (running Yota brand – wireless operator with LTE networks in more than 20 cities in Russia) launched a common pilot project in Kazan. But according to Dubovskov, the collaboration with Skartel will be a one-time-only initiative. "It wouldn't make any sense if everybody launched their own networks in collaboration with a competitor", he said.

In 2013-2014, MTS will invest about 40 billion rubles (approx. $1.3 billion) into deployment of LTE networks. This year, roll-outs are scheduled in 20 cities of Russia.

Moscow will have smart payphones

By Izvestia

By the beginning of 2014, some 200 new generation payphones will be planted in Moscow, each of them will be used as a WiFi hotspot covering a few dozen meters, a terminal for public payments, charging unit compatible with any tablet and mobile phone, and a city directory, said Konstantin Gorokhov, counselor to director of Moscow Government's IT Department. The pilot "smart" phone kiosk will be mounted in Basmannaya street this summer. In time, such kiosks will replace all old payphones in Moscow.

– At first, the new payphones will be mounted in the center, in promenade areas crowded with people, – explained Gorokhov.

According to a representative, of the IT Department, the devices will look like cash machines, with a display and cash and card accepting devices. Access to Russian portal of state services and some information portals will probably be free.

GLONASS is going far

Over 3 years, the Russian navigation market has grown twice, said Alexander Gurko, president of the non-commercial partnership for development and use of navigation technologies (GLONASS Union) – the federal network operator for navigation services. According to the Partnership, since 2010 the Russian navigation market was up from $240 billion to $480 billion. By 2020, GLONASS is expecting the market to grow by 20 times (up to $9.6 billion) owing to major projects, insurance telematics and technology export.

Speaking of specific projects, Alexander Gurko mentioned “ERA-GLONASS”, Russian federal road accident emergency response system. The corresponding draft regulations are to be introduced to Russia’s State Duma in May. “We are hoping for “ERA-GLONASS” to become a unified technological platform which will allow harmonization of multiple solutions to the benefit of both state and private users”, said Alexander Gurko.

MTS is preparing Moscow for the LTE

The largest Russian mobile operator MTS has upgraded its DWDM-network in the Moscow region and increased data transfer speed up to 100 GBit/s. The improvements have been made in preparation to the LTE network launch and consequential traffic increase. MTS used a 100G coherent optical solution based on Alcatel-Lucent 1830 PSS (Photonic Service Switch) supporting a wide range of data rates – 10 Gbit/s, 40 Gbit/s and 100 GBit/s in one fiber optic cable pair.

“According to our forecast, in 2013, total monthly traffic in Moscow will grow almost five times”, reported MTS Chief Technology Officer in the Moscow region Sergey Druzhchenko. In the next two years, MTS is going to take its Moscow networks’ data transfer speed up to 500 GBit/s.

Broadcasters unwilling to share LTE bandwidth

By Kommersant

Russian National Broadcasting Association has addressed the Minister of Communications and Mass Media Nikolay Nikiforov and Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev with a request to drop the amendments to the national radio frequency plan, said President of the Association Eduard Sagalaev. In early March 2013, the Ministry of Communications and Mass media released draft amendments to the national radio frequency plan, according to which the 703-733 MHz and 758-788 MHz bands were to be allocated to mobile operators to roll out LTE networks. The bands would be reallocated from the broadcasting industry. The latter claims that losing these bands will impact adversely on the digital channels and close the door on the expansion of HDTV.

TTK deprived of bandwith

By RBC daily

"TransTelecom Company" (TTK) – the Russian backbone carrier (a 100% subsidiary of "Russian Railways" OJSC) apparently will not be able to cater 2G services to the Russian Railways. In April, the State Commission for Radio Frequency ruled out allocation of the 1800 MHz band to TTK since it is already used by the largest Russian operators in several regions of the country. TTK filed an application for a 2G network roll-out back in December 2011. It was assumed that the 1800 MHz band along the rail links would be used to implement state-of-the-art railway control system and video surveillance off- and onboard the trains.

Satellite BBA to gain momentum

By the end of 2016, the Russian market of satellite broadband Internet services will be up by 46% to $54 million, reported ComNews Research senior analyst Evgeny Evdokimenko. According to a study by ComNews, in 2012 the revenue from satellite broadband Internet services was $37.5 million, and under favorable conditions, in the next three years the market may gain 46%.

"Our estimate of satellite BBA subscriber base in the private sector as of the beginning of 2013 is 58 thousand customers, and only some 3 thousand of them use two-way Internet access", explained Evdokimenko. "At this point, some 38 thousand VSAT systems are employed to service government and corporate clients, and monthly ARPU in the B2B/G segment was $352."

In 2012, Russian providers of two-way satellite BBA for private customers embarked on the Ka-band using Eutelsat Ka-Sat 9A. By the beginning of 2013, they had about 1000 subscribers, 50% of them on the account of AltegroSky. In an optimistic scenario, by 2017 the subscriber base of satellite BBA may grow more than tenfold up to 35 thousand users.

Operators may share frequency

Russian operators will be allowed to share bandwidth – corresponding draft amendments to the law “Concerning communications” have been prepared by the Ministry of Communications and Mass Media. The document also stipulates that frequency will be allocated based on operator’s request through a notification procedure. The band range will be used by pooling bands controlled by different operators or sharing a band allocated to a specific operator, says the explanatory note to the draft law.

Besides, the document allows operators to convey the rights for the radio frequency assigned to them: “The Ministry of Communications and Mass Media will record conveyance of rights upon application from the operator conveying its rights and on condition of preserving terms and conditions for the frequency utilization established upon initial allocation.”

It is assumed that radio frequencies will be allocated using a common data base and through a single point of contact represented by the Ministry.

As soon as the parameters of planned radio-electronic equipment are put into the data base, the regulator will initiate approval procedure with Russia’s Ministry of Defense and the Federal Protection Service to ensure compatibility with radio-electronic equipment maintaining national security.

Draft amendments also include the provision banning the State Commission for Radio Frequency from making separate decisions concerning frequency allocation, except when it is not intended for communications services and as provided for by the Government of the Russian Federation. In case of limited availability of the radio frequency spectrum, it may be allocated through tender only.

The 5th International Business Forum

Evolution of Mobile Networks – LTE Russia & CIS 2013

LTE Russia & CIS 2013

May 28–29, 2013

Holiday Inn Moscow Lesnaya Hotel
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- The LTE ecosystem in Russia. Market trends and prospects
- Conversion of radio frequency spectrum for LTE networks in accordance with the bid results
- Common use of radio-frequency spectrum in Russia
- The principle of technological neutrality in use: challenges and drivers
- Opportunities and existing mechanisms of "frequencies exchange" between operators
- Prospects for LTE equipment production in Russia
- Prospects and opportunities for LTE networks deployment in the range of 1800
- LTE-Advanced networks in Russia. Trends and prospects
- Experience of LTE network joint operation based on the MVNO model
- LTE networks infrastructure joint construction and use
- International and national roaming in LTE networks
- Chips for LTE Terminals, 2G/3G networks support. Multi-standard terminals
- The market of mobile subscriber units for LTE networks
- LTE Terminals: evaluation of subscribers' devices market development
- VoLTE

Speakers:

Yuri Dombrovski, President of the Association of regional telecom operators

Alan Hadden, President, Global mobile Suppliers Association (GSA)

Gulnara Khasyanova, Executive Director, LTE Union

Adrian Scrase, Head of 3GPP Mobile Competence Centre

Vitaly Solonin, Head of wireless technologies department, J'son & Partners Consulting

Valery Tikhvinskiy, Professor, Deputy of General Director of Innovative Technologies, ICominvest

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