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different angle

# Broadband & Satellite Russia Newsletter

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Sources: ComNews.ru

## ◆ Internet in Far North-East of Europe

The most North-Eastern territory of the European continent – the Komi Republic of the Russian Federation – made an internet breakthrough, thanks to TTK company.

More than 65 thousand of the Komi population use TTK high-speed internet. TTK started the active implementation of the retail business development strategy in the republic in 2011; from that time, the subscriber base of the company became 10 times bigger. Now multiservice TTK networks cover more than 186 thousand households in the Komi republic, and almost 90% of all multi-storey residential areas in

Syktyvkar, Ukhta, Sosnogorsk, Pechora, Usinsk and Inta. Every second citizen of these cities uses TTK internet.

TTK subscribers in the cities of the republic can use the internet with the speed of up to 100 Mbps. The population of the capital – the city of Syktyvkar – can also activate a package of digital TV with 101 channel, and the users living in areas with low-rise buildings within Ukhta, the second largest city in the republic, can connect to the internet using WiMax wireless technology. ◆

## ◆ Satellite Broadband Access for Farmers

RTComm.RU telecommunications company (included into the structure of the Rostelecom operator), and the agricultural development assistance fund “United Centre for Agricultural Development” presented a pilot project of satellite internet access (broadband access) to farming enterprises in the Kaluga region, in the central Russia. The project is carried out in the framework of creating a federal United Telecommunications Network of Russian agricultural producers, and it envisages the building of VSAT-stations in remote areas. According to the plan until 2020, about 10 thousand stations are to be installed.

The project’s implementation schedule and budget are under discussion. The sources of financing for the federal United Telecommunications Network of Russian agricultural producers could be: the private funds of agricultural producers; the regional budget funds, for example, subsidies for communications services provided to agricultural producers; the federal budget funds.

RTComm.RU specifies that the project plans to connect around 30 thousand agricultural producers. ◆

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## ❖ North Russian Communications Get Stronger

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The biggest Russian universal provider MTS plans to rent storages at “Yamal-202” and “Yamal-401” satellites, belonging to “Gazprom Space Systems”, through the International Organization of Space Communications (IOSC) “Intersputnik”; this will extend the satellite backbone communications networks in the Far North of Russia.

MTS held a tender in the end of January this year. The company does not disclose information on the participants and conditions of this

competition. The chairman of Intersputnik also did not elaborate on the details of their contract with MTS. According to an expert, the cost of renting storages at satellites on the telecommunications market varies from \$1700 to \$2160 monthly for 1 MHz, depending on the frequency range and coverage. ❖

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## ❖ Broadband Access Will Go Up

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The Russian operators do not rule out the possibility that the service tariffs on wired broadband internet access (BIA) for private persons will be increased. At the same time, the providers claim that they do everything to prevent this. The analysts of the Russian telecommunications market agree that even if the operators start raising tariffs, they will do it carefully, in order to keep the subscribers. Out of all companies interviewed by the ComNews journalists, only two – OJSC “Komkor” (using the brand name “Akado Telecom”) and OJSC “Rostelecom” – predict the change in tariff policy.

“Due to the complicated situation on the exchange market, Akado Telecom does its best not to allow the increase in service tariffs, despite the increase in our own expenses. However, we do not rule out the possible reconsideration of our tariff policy. Meanwhile, we still have package offers for BIA and digital TV services, which are advantageous for our clients. ❖

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## ❖ 13 Thousand Villages with Wi-Fi

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In 2014-2018, the national operator Rostelecom will spend up to \$4.5 million on organizing more than 13 thousand Wi-Fi access points in villages across Russia in the framework of a project devoted to bridging the digital gap.

The information on the corresponding competition is published at the government procurement portal. The tender was declared on 17 December 2014, the deadline for drawing up the results is prolonged until 13 March.

The competitors include 10 biggest Russian integrator companies: TechnoServ AS, Scientific and Production Corporation RoTek, Tegrus, NType, Inline Telecom Solutions, Nateks Spetssvyaz, NST, ARD Satcom Service, Eltex Enterprise and Concept Technologies.

Two winners shall supply Rostelecom with a total of 13 656 equipment packages for organizing Wi-Fi access points. 960 points will be allocated to the macroregional branch “North-West”, 3116 – to “Centre”, 317 – to “Moscow”, 1432 – to “South”, 4412 – to “Volga”, 1260 – to “Ural”, 1637 – to “Siberia”, and 522 – to “Far East”. ❖

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## About Us

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ComNews is the major Russian publisher of business periodicals in the ICT industry and the main worldwide supplier of unbiased accurate information about the Russian ICT business.

ComNews has launched numerous projects in order to deliver unbiased, up-to-date and complete information about the Russian ICT industry across the former USSR countries and worldwide.

ComNews publishes business periodicals, provides companies with exclusive content, studies the market, and holds business events.

ComNews caters for every need for business information and communications of the players in the market of telecoms, broadcasting and IT.

ComNews partners with the major companies and non-commercial associations of market participants. The Media Partner status enables ComNews to distribute its printed matter at the world's largest ICT forums worldwide.

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15 years in the market, offices in Moscow and St. Petersburg

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## Contacts

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ComNews Moscow  
2/1 Verkhnyaya Krasnoselskaya Ulitsa, Building 1, Office 428  
107140 Moscow, Russia  
Tel.: +7 495 933 5483

ComNews Saint Petersburg  
22 Moskovsky Prospect, Litera L, Office 36N  
190013 St. Petersburg, Russia  
Tel.: +7 812 670 2030

<http://www.comnews.ru>