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different angle

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Sources: ComNews.ru, Vedomosti,

❖ TTK Raised The Bar For Broadband

In the first eight months 2014, one of Russia's largest telecom operators TransTeleCom Company (TTK) gained 13 percent in broadband subscribers, topping 1.7 million users.

Quoting a research agency, company representatives commented that in the past two years the operator has been the leader in

broadband user growth. Thus, last year, TTK posted a 31 percent increase. The company's press service explains that brisk growth in subscriber base is primarily attributed to the fact that TTK operates in small towns with relatively low broadband penetration and high demand for this service, and also to its well-organized sales system. ❖

❖ Big Three Doubled Pace

Owing to the expansion of LTE networks over the past 9 months, Russia's Big Three mobile operators were able to more than double their data speeds. According to Speedtest, MTS remains the leader.

It became known from half-year report released by U.S. research firm Ookla, which gathered results of more than 2.3 million measurements of

mobile Internet in Russia, made by customers of the Big Three operators using Speedtest app – one of the most popular services offered by Ookla. Users of mobile devices measured data speeds in 2G/3G/LTE networks across all federal districts of Russia, in big cities and small towns, including remote localities. ❖

❖ MegaFon Prepared VoLTE

Russia's second largest mobile operator MegaFon has completed testing VoLTE (Voice over Long Term Evolution) in Moscow and Saint Petersburg, and is now ready to launch the technology across its entire 4G network.

The operator tested VoLTE at its Research and Development Centres in the two capitals of Russia on Huawei equipment.

According to MegaFon, the tests showed high speed of Internet setup – less than 1 second.

“That said, seamless handover from LTE to previous generation networks is implemented through SR-VCC (Single Radio – Voice Call Continuity) technology. MegaFon's test segment features its latest version – eSR-VCC, which operates in accordance with the 3GPP Release 10 guidelines. Tests showed that this technology enables handover in 25 ms, which goes virtually unnoticed for subscriber. Handover from LTE to 3G using the previous version of SR-VCC takes 300 ms”, says a statement released by MegaFon's press service. ❖

❖ Far East Businesses Choose Smartphone

Russia's largest mobile operator Mobile TeleSystems (MTS) communicated that in the first six months 2014, half its business customers in Eastern Russia used their network to go online, and users of smartphones and tablets generated 67 percent of total traffic.

The operator unveiled that smartphones were the main device MTS business customers in the Far East use to go online, and they accounted for 59 percent of total traffic in the B2B segment in the first six months 2014. The number of smartphones in use among business customers of MTS is the highest in the southern area of the Far East, covered by

high-speed LTE networks, including Primorye, Khabarovsk territory and Amur region. However, smartphone penetration is higher in the northern territories with limited availability of fixed Internet access, but which count with mobile data networks - Magadan, Chukotka, Yakutia and Kamchatka.

In the first half-year 2014, the Far East was one of the most active markets of Internet gadgets in Russia, with demand led by LTE smartphones, fablets (large-screen smartphones), and low-price devices. ❖

◆ Moscow Under CityWi-Fi

The Moscow Government has plans to cover the entire city with a Wi-Fi network by 2018, head of the IT Department Artem Ermolaev told at a press briefing.

The code name of the project is CityWi-Fi. Artem Ermolaev explained that the plan to roll out Wi-Fi over the entire city is related to the upcoming 2018 FIFA World Cup. According to him, a vast number of people will want to watch the games online, on their mobile phone, for example. “Video transfer requires high speed. There still remain some issues with

mobile communications in the city, so Wi-Fi could be another option”, he emphasized.

The Moscow Government is already holding talks with operators about covering the entire city using a single technological environment with standard user rules. “The partnership needs to be interesting and beneficial for all parties, and its scheme will depend on operators’ commercial model”, said the administrative official. ◆

◆ \$72.2 Million To Insure Yamal-401

Russia’s second satellite operator Gazprom Space Systems (GSS) wants to insure its new Yamal-401 satellite for \$72.2 million. The launch of Yamal-401 was scheduled for this month, until it was postponed to December.

The tender for insurance of space risks of the new satellite was announced on the Government Procurement Portal. Tender results will be declared before the end of this month. Two of Russia’s largest insurance companies – SOGAZ and Ingosstrakh are considering participation in the tender.

The launch of Yamal-401 had already been rescheduled before due to delays in manufacturing and failures of Russian launch vehicles.

The Yamal-400 project envisages manufacturing and placement into geostationary orbit of two high-power satellites – Yamal-401 and Yamal-402, bearing a total of 99 transponders (or 154 transponders equivalent to 36 MHz) in C- and Ku-band, roll-out of ground mission control facility, reserve control facility, telemetry tracking and command facility, and also GSS’ space infrastructure. Yamal-402 was put into commercial operation in early 2013. ◆

◆ MegaFon Launched LTE-A In Russian Capitals

In the beginning of September, MegaFon put into commercial operation its LTE-Advanced (LTE-A) network in the center of Saint Petersburg, following the launch of LTE-A in Moscow early in the year.

The company has also drawn up preliminary results of the Saint Petersburg 4G LTE network which was commissioned two years ago.

Thus, MegaFon's retail outlets currently offer more than 70 devices supporting LTE: 49 smartphones, 14 tablets, 4 modems, and 4 routers.

4G devices account for more than 25 percent of MegaFon's total retail sales.

Increasing choice of 4G devices in the market was one of the drivers which boosted LTE subscriptions. Over the past year, the number of users in MegaFon's LTE network was up by 10.5 times. In terms of subscriber growth pace, LTE networks show quadruple results compared with 2G and 3G networks. ◆

◆ First 4G On 1800 MHz

MTS is the first of the Russian Big Four mobile operators (which also includes MegaFon, VimpelCom and Tele2) to launch 4G on 1800 MHz. In the last few years the idea to develop the new technology in this spectrum has been defended by Tele2, but this far, the operator hasn't put it into practice yet.

Previously, MTS used the 1800 MHz spectrum exclusively for GSM voice services. And now, the mobile leader rolled out an LTE network on the same band in Bashkiria using Ericsson equipment. In addition, MTS uses LTE-Advanced – a standard which allows aggregation of

1800 and 2600 MHz spectrum assets, thus providing subscribers with higher speeds and enhanced network capacity, the latter being an important factor for operators amid a spectrum shortage.

LTE-1800 is supported by numerous 4G devices.

In terms of commercial potential, LTE on 1800 MHz is the most promising technology: one base station operating on 1800 MHz covers an area of nearly twice as much as a 2600 MHz base station", commented a source in MTS. ◆

About Us

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