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different angle

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Sources: ComNews.ru, Vedomosti.ru

◆ TTK Launches First WiMAX Network in the Urals

Company TTK, one of the biggest communications operators in Russia, started rendering wireless Internet services using WiMAX technology in the Urals. TTK's macroregional branch "Ural" (TTK Ural) ensured the wireless coverage of all private housing in the suburbs of Pervouralsk and apartment buildings in its central districts, covering

50% of the city's residential area with the WiMAX network. Internet access speed is up to 3 Mbps. The construction was carried out with the use of LTE-ready equipment, and the company does not rule out the possibility of future migration to LTE technology using the current infrastructure. ◆

◆ GSS Gains Control over Khrunichev Center

Federal State Unitary Enterprise "Khrunichev State Research and Production Space Center" (KhSC) and OJSC "Gazprom Space Systems" (GSS) signed an agreement for strategic partnership until 2030. In its framework, GSS will be able to control the stages of assembly for Proton-M carrier rocket, and the main detail: it will pay for launches in rubles to KhSC, not in dollars to ILS, its American subsidiary. The fact that the strategic partnership has started was affirmed on the briefing by Andrey Kalinovsky, Khrunichev acting CEO, and Nikolay Sevastyanov, GSS designer general, as well as by Igor

Burenkov, official representative of Roskosmos. In the framework of the strategic agreement, the parties have already signed a contract for the launch of Yamal-601 satellite in 2018 by means of Proton-M carrier rocket. Nikolay Sevastyanov did not specify the cost of this agreement, claiming it to be a commercial secret. He added that until 2020, GSS also planned to launch Yamal-501 spacecraft. From 2020 until 2030, there will be the time to fill the group of orbital spacecrafts, and GSS is intending to put into orbit about four satellites more, he said. ◆

◆ VimpelCom Earns Less

During 2014, the total revenue of the leading communications operator OJSC “VimpelCom” decreased by 3% and amounted to 281 million rubles. According to the company, this happened because it refused from “toxic” income that is gained through services being imposed upon subscribers by content providers. The top managers of the company stated that at a press conference dedicated to VimpelCom’s financial outcomes. During the last year, the EBITDA rating of VimpelCom, in comparison with this figure in 2013, was reduced by

8% and equaled to \$1.7 billion. EBITDA profitability reduced by 2.2 percentage points, to 39.7%. “This reduction (in relation to EBITDA – Note from ComNews) is mainly conditioned by the negative influence of the ruble’s devaluation against the dollar, which affected the roaming and interconnection expenses, as well as structural operating expenses. Investment in the network also increased due to the recent accelerated deployment of high-speed data transmission networks”, says VimpelCom’s statement. ◆

◆ MegaFon will Let Others into St. Petersburg Underground

The end of the current year may see the elaboration of technical conditions for cellular operators, which will enable them to access the infrastructure and start rendering services in the tunnels of the St. Petersburg metro. This was stated by Head of Northwest branch of OJSC “MegaFon”, one of the “big three” operators, Aleksei Semyonov; he mentioned this in the report he made on the Forum “Telecom of Two

Capitals”, organized by ComNews. Now only MegaFon can provide mobile connection in the tunnels of the city’s underground, and for now, according to Aleskei Semyonov, the company has no technical capacity to make the infrastructure in the sections between stations available for all mobile network operators. ◆

❖ **Moscovites in Fourth Generation**

There are 1.5 million LTE subscribers in Moscow – 150% more than a year ago, according to the Department of Information Technologies (DIT) of the Moscow Mayor’s office. DIT included the operator’s data on the number of base stations supporting LTE and the dynamics of mobile internet traffic, as well as its own data on the selling of LTE-supporting devices – DIT receives this data from retail networks and web stores. In the beginning of 2014, DIT noted the considerable prevail of MegaFon in the number of subscribers; by the beginning of 2015, all three LTE operators (also MTS and VimpelCom) were showing almost identical results. The Mayor’s office counts only LTE subscribers in the old Moscow (within the borders until 1 July 2012).

As reported by AC&M-Consulting, in the end of III quarter of 2014, there were 39.5 million mobile subscribers in Moscow and near Moscow. 1.5 million LTE subscribers were with MTS, VimpelCom and MegaFon in Moscow – it is a fair estimation, agrees Director General of TMT Consulting Konstantin Ankilov. To explain high growth rates, he claims that in 2013, the LTE subscriber base in the Moscow region was rather small. According to him, the number of devices supporting LTE in Moscow is the biggest to be found in Russia. The “big three” operators have been actively building LTE networks in the Moscow region – the fast surge of subscribers ensured the availability of 4G connection. ❖

❖ **LTE-A Cat.9 Arrives**

MegaFon is technically ready to launch LTE-Advanced Cat.9 network in commercial operation, but the subscriber devices supporting this technology are not on the market yet. The operator is waiting for their appearance and, using a test device, has already demonstrated the aggregation of three carriers in the LTE-Advanced network, reaching data transfer speed of up to 450 Mbps in it. The experts note that the launch of such a network in the mass segment is still irrelevant and it is unlikely to occur in the nearest future. In the course of the testing, with the use of the software and multi-standard

base stations RBS6000 Ericsson, MegaFon tested the aggregation of three carriers on the frequencies of the ranges 2600 MHz and 1800 MHz (20 MHz in 2600 + 20 MHz in 2600 + 20 MHz in 1800). Three LTE spectral bands, 20 MHz each, taken together were, in total, a band of 60 MHz. The total speed, as a result, amounted to 450 Mbps. Leonid Kislov, leading expert for development of mobile broadband access solutions in Ericsson, points out that in the conditions of rapid growth of mobile broadband access technologies the operators face the issue of using a wider spectrum of frequencies. ❖

❖ **Broadband Access Used by Majority of Russians**

In 2014, the number of Russian households which have fixed broadband internet access (BIA) equaled to 29.7 million, growing by 5% in a year. The service's penetration reached 53.6%, highlighted the analysts of J'son & Partners Consulting (J&P). Another agency, TMT Consulting, earlier estimated these values to be 28.7 million, 4% and 51.5% accordingly. The preliminary results of J&P show that the volume of the national BIA market in private user segment grew by 4% in 2014,

and amounted to almost \$1.7 billion. TMT Consulting shared that the market volume reached \$1.8 billion, growing by 5.5%.

Both examiners call out the same segment leaders: OJSC "Rostelecom", CJSC "ER-Telecom Holding" (the Dom.ru brand), OJSC "Mobile TeleSystems" (MTS), OJSC "VimpelCom" (the Beeline brand) and CJSC "TransTelecom Company" (TTK). ❖

❖ **Akado connects to AMS-IX**

Moscow telecommunication corporation Comcor (the "Akado Telecom" trademark) expands its presence on the B2O international market. The company has signed a partner agreement with the AMS-IX exchange – the largest exchange point for internet traffic in the world (Amsterdam). According to the agreement, Akado Telecom acquires the reseller status, which enables it to connect third party operators to the international platform with the bandwidth from 100 Mbps to 10 Gb.

In order to increase the traffic quality and reduce IP-transit expenses, the operators can use this service offered by Akado Telecom and connect to AMS-IX equipment; this offer is valid for operators in the regions where the provider has built its network: Moscow, the Moscow region, St. Petersburg, the St. Petersburg region, and Yekaterinburg.

In 2014, Comcor acquired the reseller status on DE-CIX (Frankfurt am Main) and Netnod (Stockholm) – the largest internet traffic exchanges in the Central and Northern Euro. ❖

About Us

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.

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