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different angle

# Broadband & Satellite Russia Newsletter

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Sources: ComNews.ru, Vedomosti.ru, Kommersant.ru

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## ◆ TTK Advocates New Cyber Security Strategies

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During the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF-2015) which was held in June, Svetlana Shamzon, Vice-President of TTK, one of the largest carriers in Russia, made a speech at a panel discussion “Building Effective Cyber Security Systems”. She stated that it was necessary to look for new cyber security models. The discussion was attended by the heads of the related industry agencies, international associations and business representatives, and it covered the issues of forming new approaches and instruments to ensure information security on the national and international levels.

“Large-scale spreading of cloud services, their market growing by dozens of percent annually, and the globalizing information field force

us to look for new cyber security models and strategies, based on international cooperation. The principle of autonomy which laid the foundation of cyber security strategies for companies and countries until now is not relevant today”, highlighted Svetlana Shamzon. “The synthesis of practices used by different countries, namely, such as creating registers of forbidden websites and secure networks for government authorities, and developing united guidelines on the level of the ITU and other international platforms, could be the first step towards systematizing the global cyberspace”.

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## ◆ 4G for Everyone

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The Russian Ministry of Economic Development offers to allow operators the shifting and sharing of radio frequency bands not only in the 900 MHz and 1800 MHz ranges, as proposed for the next meeting of the State Commission on Radio Frequencies (SCRF), but also in the other ranges allocated for LTE development. The largest operators support the idea.

The Ministry of Economic Development offered the SCRF to expand the list of ranges offered for sharing, including all ranges which were previously allocated for the LTE standard. On its next meeting, the

SCRF planned to consider the possibility of operators sharing frequencies in the ranges of 900 MHz and 1800 MHz. The Ministry suggested to add the ranges of 800 MHz, 2.3-2.4 GHz and 2.5 -2.7 GHz to the list. The Ministry of Communications and Mass Media (Minsvyaz) has not replied yet. According to one of the carriers, the 800 MHz range requires frequency shifting and sharing most urgently, because the main part of the resource allocated to operators there is occupied by military systems.

## ◆ Mobile Companies Lose Subscribers

All Russian operators closed the first quarter of 2015 with a reduced subscriber base, as to a report published by AC&M Consulting agency. According to the analysts' data, it happened for the first time in Russia. The operators have less subscribers not only in Russia in general, but also in Moscow. The losses are not gigantic: the subscriber bases of MTS and MegaFon reduced by less than 1% (both in Moscow and in Russia). For VimpelCom, the conditions are worse: the number of their sim-cards in Moscow reduced by 4%, in Russia – by 2%. The repre-

sentatives of operators name different reasons for this outflow, but they agree on one point: that it is a seasonal trend. In the fourth quarter, the sales are traditionally more active than in the first one, and the beginning of the year is characterized by higher outflow, as to Vimpel-Com's spokesperson. According to them, if somebody does not use a sim card for three months, the operators stop calculating them as a subscriber, and sometimes the number of such expired sim-cards is higher than the number of sales. ◆

## ◆ Wi-Fi at Moscow Transport Stops

The State Unitary Enterprise "Mosgortrans" started the project of equipping Moscow ground public transport stops with wireless internet access points. The partner of the project was the carrier Enforta. This company installed the necessary equipment, organized communication channels and provided technical support. The service has already been expanded to more than 100 public transport stops in different

parts of the capital. The network can be accessed through any portable device – a smartphone, a tablet, a laptop. Wi-Fi can simultaneously be used by up to 50 people on each stop. One session's length is limited to 25 minutes, and internet connection speed reaches 10 Mbps. ◆

## ◆ Tele2 Made Arrangements with St. Petersburg

Mobile operator Tele2 and the government of St. Petersburg have concluded an agreement to cooperate in developing communication services. From 2015 until 2019, the operator plans to invest around \$156 million in developing the city's telecommunications infrastructure and implementing social projects.

The agreement was signed by St. Petersburg Governor Sergey Poltavchenko and General Director of Tele2 Mikhail Noskov during the

St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF-2015). Tele2 takes the second place among the participating companies in terms of investment into St. Petersburg economy, which was stated during the forum. These arrangements are designed to define the basis of cooperation between Tele2 and St. Petersburg government in developing the telecommunications structure of the northern capital, enlarging investment into the city's economy and implementing joint social projects. ◆

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**Yamal 300K Taking over the Watch**

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In the middle of June, the owner of the second-largest Russian orbital constellation OJSC “Gazprom Space Systems” (GSS) finished the planned relocation of Yamal 300K satellite from 900 East to 1830 East and launched it into commercial operation. The satellite covers the Russian Far East, Korea, Japan and other areas in South-Eastern Asia. About 10% of the spacecraft’s capacity is already contracted. During the next year, GSS plan to enlarge the load of Yamal 300K by 80%. The satellite’s transfer started on 15 April of the current year at 19:00 Moscow time. The new position of 1830 East (or 1770 West)

taken by Yamal 300K by 25 May is just above the Pacific Ocean and allows to cover the Far East, Korea, Japan, and other areas in South-East Asia, as well as Alaska. After that, the satellite was tested and launched into commercial operation.

According to Igor Kot, Deputy General Director for Marketing and Business Planning, one beam of Yamal 300K covers the Russian Far East and namely attracts attention of Russian mobile operators who are interested in creating backbone infrastructure for their mobile networks in the region. 

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**LTE will Speak**

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The largest of the “big three” Russian mobile operators, MTS company, has fully prepared its LTE networks (all around the country?) to provide VoLTE services, as to the representative of the company. Voice over LTE technology allows voice transmission as data package together with internet traffic in the LTE networks. MTS has tested the cloud platform by Ericsson which allows VoLTE activation without changing software and utilities at each base station, and the tests were successful. The representative did not disclose the cost of the solution’s implementation, mentioning that it could be low, with no new base stations requiring installation, and all the expenses would be

related to additional software purchase. VoLTE works in test mode (for MTS?) in Moscow and St. Petersburg from 2014.

VimpelCom is fully prepared technically to launch VoLTE, too. The company tested this technology in 2014, in April 2015 it was the first of the “big three” operators to carry out an LTE call in the commercial network, as to VimpelCom’s representative.

MegaFon is also ready to provide Voice over LTE services, this company’s testing took place last year. 

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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.

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