

Monash fibre tech heads for commercialisation

A locally-made technology designed to dramatically increase fibre speeds is close to commercialisation. Developed at Melbourne's Monash University, the optical Orthogonal Frequency-Division Multiplexing technology is hoped to boost the long-haul capacity of fibre lines without great expense, and the project has gained \$250,000 in funding from the Trans Tasman Commercialisation Fund (TTCF).

"The appeal of oOFDM is that it offers an inexpensive means of dramatically increasing long-haul capacity from the current transmission rate of 10 Gigabits per second to more than 100 Gigabits per second, over new and existing optical fibre," Monash researcher Professor Arthur Lowery said. "Standard data transmission is equivalent to transmitting a series of single notes, but oOFDM is more like transmitting the notes grouped together in a chord. Since more data is packed into the chord, more information can be sent that is less prone to technical issues, as each signal travels down the optical fibre."

Monash has patents over the oOFDM technology, currently being commercialised by Ofidium Pty Ltd. Venture capital outfit Starfish Ventures has backed the company, and the new quarter-million dollar funding grant is the first investment by the TTCF into Victorian university research. TTCF is a \$30 million seed investment fund, supported in Victoria by the Victorian state government.

Luke Coleman

Resurgent hosted comms will find its niche: Telsyte

New research from Telsyte indicates that hosted communications services, re-emergent after lukewarm initial response, may find new traction in the current climate of economic recovery. But the analyst firm nevertheless envisages strict limits on the potential growth of the technology in the enterprise space, with a series of inhibitors likely to cap uptake below a quarter of the market across the next five years.

Telsyte's research found that around 40% of medium to large Australian enterprises were set to adopt cloud computing over the next three years. However, the firm also found that only 25% of MLEs were likely to deploy hosted telephony – already launched in a slightly different form by both Telstra and Optus some years ago – over the next five years, with hosted unified communications limited to a projected 18% penetration in the same timeframe.

"The report... highlighted some inhibitors to cloud-based services, including security issues with sensitive data being hosted off-site," said Telsyte industry analyst Gary Tsang. "Decision makers have also indicated that they are a bit concerned about carriage services' reliability, and also bandwidth requirements around cloud computing – with concerns around the current network being able to offer the required quality of service."

Petroc Wilton

Newsat boosts Q1 financials amidst takeover tussle

Satellite firm NewSat has followed up a strong set of FY09 results with a solid first quarter, continuing to push up revenues and EBITDA on the back of more new and extended contracts. However, the firm remains embroiled in unusual proceedings around a takeover attempt from surprise bidder EWC Payments, with the Takeovers Panel rejecting an appeal to cancel the offer.

For the quarter ended 30 September, NewSat declared revenue increases of around 25% over the same period last year and 15% up from Q409. The boosted revenues also drove increased EBITDA, at 75% better than the prior corresponding period and 50% over the June 09 quarter.

Recent wins for the company include a \$2 million contract with Esso Australia and a group of contracts with the US military in Afghanistan, totalling \$2.5 million.

TAKEOVER STRUGGLE CONTINUES: Meanwhile, the saga of the hostile takeover bid launched against NewSat by EWC Payments continues to unfold. After NewSat directors advised shareholders against the offer from the enigmatic and unlisted buyer, EWC came back with an assertion that it was owned by a Swiss

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