

## **Next G upstream bandwidth boosted to 5.8Mbps, max**

Telstra has upgraded its Next G network to support maximum upstream bandwidth of 5.8Mbps, up from 1.9Mbps previously. The network provides a maximum downstream bandwidth of 21Mbps throughout, but the 5.8Mbps upstream is presently available only in capital cities, metropolitan areas and selected regional locations. Telstra says typical upstream bandwidths will range from 300kbps – 3Mbps, compared to 300kbps – 1Mbps previously. Users will also need a Next G modem able to take advantage of the upgrade. Telstra says customers using the Telstra Turbo 21 USB modem, from Sierra Wireless, can download an upgrade from Sierra Wireless now, but will receive one over the air on the weekend. A Telstra spokeswoman told *Exchange* that an upgrade for the consumer version of this product, BigPond's 21 USB Mobile Card, would be available in early July. Ross Fielding, executive director, Telstra Product Management, said other enhanced upload speed devices were expected to be available in the near future.

## **Mobile broadband now \$1b pl+ per year business**

According to market research firm Telsyte, mobile broadband services in Australia generated almost \$1b of revenue in 2008. Telsyte says that, the end of 2008, there were almost one million 3G-based mobile broadband users. Telsyte associate analyst, Gary Tsang told *Exchange* that this number included 3G dongles and wireless cards, and users with Internet data packs added on to their 3G voice plans. He said Telsyte estimated total revenue from these customers in 2008 at just under \$1 billion, that there had been a 100 percent increase in user numbers in the last six months of 2008 and a further 25 percent growth in the first six months of 2009. However the resulting revenue increase had been offset somewhat by falling ARPU's as Telstra reduced prices to counter the growing competition for expanded coverage by Vodafone and Optus.

## **ABS deploys Expand Networks to speed remote access to virtualised desktops**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is implementing Expand Networks' WAN optimisation technology to complete its organisation-wide virtualisation strategy of Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI). Expand's Virtual Accelerators will be deployed in the data centre as a virtual image on existing VMware ESX Hypervisor to enable the ABS to migrate employees across the country to VDI. The implementation is intended to bring users across seven regional offices into virtual proximity of their applications and data centre services. Bruce Buckham, servers, systems and storage manager at the ABS said: "After investing heavily in a server virtualisation project, we are keen to complete our strategy by deploying a virtual desktop infrastructure. However, for the users in the regional offices who will receive their entire desktop over the WAN, we need to accelerate the data transfer to make it a workable experience." Expand claims that its technology will accelerate the delivery of traffic over the WAN by over 300 percent.

## **Expand scores second satellite WAN optimisation customer**

Expand Networks, a specialist in wide area network optimisation technologies has announced its second contract in a week to provide its technology for use in satellite communications, this time from Level421, a teleport operator with global operations that specialises in two-way Internet broadband connectivity. It uses 38 geostationary satellites covering most of the globe, uplinked from four teleports worldwide into which Expand equipment will be installed.

According to Level421 general manager, Markus Haut, the world's poorest markets have the least terrestrial broadband capacity and therefore the most demand for expensive satellite communications. "We specialise in covering areas where local carriers cannot deliver broadband solutions at an acceptable quality or cost, and WAN optimisation technology was the logical solution for us to maximise existing assets to enable high-performance connectivity back to the European backbone from these regions," he said. "By partnering with Expand, we can use WAN optimisation technology to reduce the TCP protocol bottlenecks and congestion on the satellite links." Expand also announced a contract with Asian broadband satellite operator, Ipstar last week.

## **ACMA approves former spammer's staff training programme**

The ACMA has approved a staff training programme from SMS aggregator Oxygen8 Communications about SMS spam and other provisions of the Spam Act 2003, required as part of an enforceable undertaking accepted from Oxygen8 by ACMA in December 2008. "Oxygen8 Communications has devised a comprehensive and modern training programme which covers all of the key elements of the Spam Act. It is encouraging to see an SMS aggregator take the lead in ensuring compliance with the Spam Act amongst its staff, directors and clients," said ACMA chairman, Chris Chapman. Programme topics include: understanding consent, identification and providing functional unsubscribe facilities. All Oxygen8 staff are required to undertake training at least annually. Oxygen8 also undertook to monitor messages being sent using its systems and suspend the provision of its services to mobile content providers when likely breaches of the Spam Act are detected.