



Monday July 25, 2005

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News Briefs for June 21, 2005

By Wireless Week Staff

June 21, 2005

NEWS@2 DIRECT

- **Viper Networks** says it has completed testing and will begin marketing a new version of its Wi-Fi-enabled phone that operates on its global VoIP network. The Wi-Fi vPhone 3100 will replace the 2100 model that the company launched in April of 2004. Viper's Wi-Fi vPhone allows users to make phone calls over Viper's global VoIP network from any hot spot or location with 802.11 wireless Internet access.
- **ThumbPlay** is launching an online mobile entertainment portal - ThumbPlay.com. ThumbPlay says the portal works with most major carriers and offers customers a faster, easier way to order applications, ringtones, images, games and other content directly to their cell phones.
- **Atheros Communications** is behind a new public WLAN service, D-cubic, launched by Japanese ISP livedoor Co. The system uses Atheros XR and Super G performance-enhancement features. When fully deployed, the new service will create a high-bandwidth WLAN public network that users will be able to access from any one of 2,200 access point locations in Tokyo. Separately, Atheros announced that NEC has launched 12 new laptop models that use Atheros' dual-band 802.11a/g WLAN solution with eXtended Range (XR) capability.
- **NextWeb** says it has expanded its long-term partnership with Kyber Networks, an Internet services and technology provider for the hospitality industry. As a NextWeb partner, Kyber will offer NextWeb's fixed-wireless broadband services to hospitality customers throughout California. Kyber will then deploy and manage Internet services for the customers such as in-room access and guest wireless access areas.
- **Netgear** announced the expansion of its RangeMax family of extended range, high-speed wireless networking products with the launch of the RangeMax Wireless Access Point (WPN802). The RangeMax Wireless Access Point, which employs an array of seven internal smart MIMO antennas, adapts to the environment to avoid interference and deliver up to 10 times more wireless coverage and speed than basic 802.11g access points, the company says.
- In a vote of confidence for fixed wireless, **First Avenue Networks** says it has received a determination from the Nasdaq listing qualifications panel that it is appropriate to list First Avenue's common stock on the Nasdaq national market. Its common stock will trade under the symbol "FRNS."
- **Nvidia** announced the opening of an office in Beijing, China. The new office will be responsible for marketing, sales promotion, customer service and technical support in China and complements existing Nvidia offices and design centers in Shenzhen, Shanghai, and Hong Kong.
- **Gemplus International S.A.** and **Celltick Technologies** have been selected by **VimpelCom**, Russia's second largest mobile network operator, for the commercial launch of its new "Chameleon" broadcast application. Chameleon sends content teasers - from news headlines to sport updates and games - direct to the subscriber's handset while it is in idle mode. If subscribers want more information, they click once. The service is based on **Celltick's** cell broadcast technology, incorporated into a Gemplus SIM card and a SIM Toolkit application called BeeInfo.
- **Glu Mobile**, formerly Sorrent and Macrospace, announced the launch of Daily Puzzle, a mobile subscription service that delivers a combination of three new brain benders to subscribers' mobile phones each day. Glu created Daily Puzzle in collaboration with puzzle master Scott Kim, inventor of puzzles for the Internet, computer games, magazines and toys.
- **Mobliss** and **Sandlot Games** announced the delivery of the classic PC puzzler, Slider, to top U.S. carriers.
- **NMS Communications** is expanding its presence into the Indian market with the opening of its first office, located in New Delhi. The office will be responsible for the marketing, sales and support of NMS' products, from IP- and mobility-ready developer platforms to mobile applications and solutions for improving the quality and performance of wireless infrastructure.
- Christian Scherp joined **Conexant Systems** as senior vice president of worldwide sales. Scherp previously was vice president and general manager of the wireless/wireline Communications Group for Infineon Technologies North America.
- **Alvarion** announced plans for Tzvika Friedman, president and COO of Alvarion for the past four years, to succeed Zvi Slonimsky as CEO in October. Slonimsky will continue to serve as a director of the company.
- **Jamster!** this week will introduce Prime8, a rap collective to launch solely in the mobile domain. Deacon and Dash, the two main components of the collective, will debut their "funky hip hop" number "Monkey Pants" next

week in the United Kingdom and hope to emulate the success of their musical mentor, "The Crazy Frog," and quickly make the transition from mobile to mainstream.

- **Intervoice** reported net income for the first quarter of fiscal 2006 was \$3.9 million, or 10 cents per diluted share, reflecting a 23 percent improvement from net income of \$3.2 million, or 8 cents per diluted share, posted in the first quarter of last year.
- **InterDigital Communications** announced that Bruce Bernstein has joined the company as general patent counsel. In this role, he will be responsible for managing the company's intellectual property assets and growing the patent licensing business. He succeeds William Merritt, who was appointed president, CEO and a member of InterDigital's board in May.

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