WiMAX Forum News
Weekly Clip Report December 22-28

Articles of Notes

Enemies dig in for WiMAX-on-cell phone trench war, December 27, Register.co.uk
As the WiMax hype machine moves into high gear ahead of next month's 802.20 working group meeting in London, UK, workers on the various wireless standards are anxious to calm down negative reports about the problems they might have on making this family of wireless work in true mobile fashion. One of the problems facing WiMax is that Intel - a major sponsor - wants to see it used on the move, at high speed in moving vehicles, not just in coffee shop hotspots. Unfortunately, the WiMax standard, 802.16d doesn't cover moving nodes, and the mobile version, 802.16e, has issues with rapid hand-off from cell to cell. One possible solution to the hand-off problem is the 802.20 standard proposal. The credibility of that proposal has bene under something of a cloud, partly for technical reasons (many engineers remain sceptical about it) but mainly for political reasons. The politics got so bad that at one point, the IEEE actually suspended the committee that was working on the standard.
http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/12/27/wimax_poliltics/

Next Year Will be the Year of WiMAX, December 23, Cellular-News
With 2006 coming to a close, Motorola predicts 2007 will be the year WiMAX will begin entering the mainstream with growing consumer awareness and anticipation, and with an increasing number of commercial launches of mobile WiMAX networks. "When we look back one year ago and reflect on all that the industry has accomplished, it is truly astounding the pace at which next generation broadband solutions are evolving. WiMAX no longer is just a promise, a potential. Now it's here, it's real, and Motorola is at the forefront of delivering this technology," said Dan Coombes, senior vice president and chief technology officer, Motorola Networks & Enterprise. With industry wide support, performance, and cost advantages WiMAX is clearly well positioned to play a pivotal role in the evolution of future broadband wireless networks on a global scale. In the span of the last year, IEEE ratified the standard behind Mobile WiMAX 802.16e-2005, and fixed WiMAX Forum(TM) certified products have been deployed.
http://www.cellular-news.com/story/21090.php

The gutsiest mobile and wireless companies of 2006, December 22, ComputerWorld
The technology world is full of innovators, but here's a small salute to two companies that exemplify a trait not found nearly so often: boldness. Those two companies, EarthLink and Sprint, took action this year that could pay huge dividends -- or lead to their demise. That thought occurred to me in the last week after EarthLink rolled out two more more city-wide Wi-Fi systems (in New Orleans and Milpitas, California) and an analyst described Sprint's plans for a nationwide mobile WiMAX network "the coolest and wildest and most risky gambit we've seen in the wireless industry in quite some time." Both companies have changed direction and taken big risks because, well, they had to. For instance, EarthLink, as an executive for the company explained to me not long ago, was a dial-up company that could not compete in a DSL and cable world. It had to do something or it would slowly fade away. The answer: Jump on the municipal Wi-Fi bandwagon, which it is doing successfully -- so far -- by installing and running a number of municipal Wi-Fi systems. Instead of losing its dial-up customers in, say, Philadelphia to Verizon's DSL, it now can compete against Verizon. Whatever you think about muni Wi-Fi projects, more competition can only be a good thing in an area -- broadband -- where there is precious little competition.
http://www.computerworld.com/blogs/node/4220

WiMAX Forum Member Company News

Sprint's Secret to Cost Cutting: WiMAX, December 27, Businessweek.com

When Sprint Nextel Chief Executive Gary Forsee unveiled plans in August to build a nationwide communications network using the latest wireless broadband technology, he boasted that the network will deliver calls and video to consumers at lightning speeds. That new network may bring another consequence: cost savings amounting to billions of dollars a year. Each year, Sprint pays other companies a bundle to connect cell-phone calls over parts of the network that it doesn't control. In industry parlance, the process is known as "backhaul" and it pertains to a short but expensive stretch of the network controlled by big phone companies including AT&T and Verizon. Here's how it works. Say Sprint needs to connect a wireless call from Portland to New York. A call from a cell phone connects to the nearest cell tower. From there it's conveyed to the carrier's switching center, where it's zipped across the country, typically over a fast and cheap fiber-optic cable. But to get from the cell tower to the switching station, it's conveyed over a so-called T-1 backhaul line.
http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/dec2006/tc20061227_904530.htm?chan=top+news_top+news+index_technology

Synterra opened its first WiMAX regional network, December 26, OSP International
Synterra, an independent national telecoms operator, has announced the completion of Synterra WiMAX wireless broadband access network in Kursk, Russia. It is the first network of such standard in the city and the first network by Synterra WiMAX in a Russian province. Kursk is one of six cities of the Central Federal District where the company plans to start offering telecom services with WiMAX technology in 2007. Synterra holds 2.5-2.7 GHz license for Moscow, Moscow region and 16 regions of the Central Federal District. The regional network deployment program is planned for two years. Total investments in these projects will amount US$4.5 million. Initially, the Kursk network consists of three base stations and covers around 80 percent of the city. The network capacity enables servicing of around 1.5 thousand clients.
http://www.ospint.com/text/d/3821727/

Fintel Covers Fiji Islands With WiMAX Using Alvarion's BreezeMAX, December 25, Huliq.com
Alvarion Ltd., the world's leading provider of wireless broadband solutions and specialized mobile networks, today announced that Fiji International Communications Limited (FINTEL), the country's international telecommunications provider, has selected BreezeMAX to offer WiMAX data services to the businesses and residents of the Fiji islands. Working with Paclink, a leading South Pacific systems integrator, FINTEL will start by offering services in the capital city of Suva, later expanding to more of the 330 islands in the south Pacific archipelago. "We are pleased to be able to bring the '4G' services of WiMAX to the Fiji Islands," said Mr. Jone Wesele, Commercial & Business Development Manager of FINTEL. "As a complement to our existing fiber and satellite networks, BreezeMAX has proven to be ideal for our island terrain. It's a robust, ruggedized system with exceptionally high performance for our non-line-of-sight environment and meets the demanding bandwidth and service requirements of our busy tourist industry." BreezeMAX is Alvarion's award-winning, WiMAX Certified™ platform designed from the ground up according to the IEEE 802.16 standards and uses OFDM technology for advanced non-line-of-sight (NLOS) functionality.
http://www.huliq.com/3326/fintel-covers-fiji-islands-with-wimax-using-alvarion-s-breezemax

Aperto to establish unit in India, December 22, The Hindu
Aperto Networks, a developer of WiMAX base stations and subscriber units, plans to set up a manufacturing unit in India and is on the lookout for local partners to tie up with. President and CEO of Aperto Networks Michael K. Pratt told presspersons here on Wednesday the company had already shortlisted a few multinational companies and its local units here were in the process of selecting a manufacturing partner. "The manufacturing facility may come up some time next year and will be located either in Bangalore or Chennai. We plan to start by manufacturing WiMAX modems and will go on to develop base stations at a later stage," he said. Aperto Networks local vice-president (marketing and alliances) Manish Gupta also

announced that the company would be expanding its Bangalore development centre and setting up a customer support centre here to provide level-one and level-two support to service providers across India and other regions of the world.
http://www.hindu.com/2006/12/22/stories/2006122211570500.htm

Milton Keynes connects first users to its WiMax network, December 22, ITPro
Milton Keynes may have only kicked off its relationship with WiMax technology back in September, but already the city has starting connecting trial customers to the network. The city hopes to extend the trial's reach to around 500 users, delivering connectivity at speeds of up to 10Mbps. It has also started to consider what additional infrastructure will be required to enable it to offer wider commercial services next year. The service provider behind the trial, Pipex Wireless, believes this places it ahead of the game in terms of being the first to offer secure wireless broadband using WiMax in the UK. Once the pilot, which is expected to last for six months, has been deemed a success and the network is fully live, Milton Keynes will be able to boast that it is one of the country's most connected cities, delivering broadband and IP-based services to both businesses and residents alike.
http://www.itpro.co.uk/wireless/news/100929/milton-keynes-connects-first-users-to-its-wimax-network.html

IQmax Tri-Band WiMAX Test System Now Supports All Popular Worldwide WiMAX Frequencies, December 22, Broadband Wireless Exchange Magazine
LitePoint Corporation announces the market release of the tri-band version of the IQmax one-box test system. In addition to the 3.3 to 3.8GHz band already supported by the single-band version of the instrument (introduced last May), the IQmax Test System now supports testing fixed and mobile WiMAX products in the 2.15 to 2.7 GHz and 4.9 to 6.0 GHz bands as well as optional test support for WiFi and Bluetooth products. Based on an integrated Vector Signal Analyzer (VSA) and Vector Signal Generator (VSG) architecture, the single-box IQmax Test System can test critical WiMAX physical layer parameters for developers, volume manufacturing and quality assurance (QA) at the lowest possible cost. This one-box instrument meets all international WiMAX development, production, and QA test needs for both fixed (16d) and mobile (16e) as well as optional WiFi and Bluetooth and it's software upgradeable to easily address any future needs. "With this latest product upgrade, our customers can now apply the powerful capabilities of the IQmax Test System to test any WiMAX, WiFi, Bluetooth or combination products where multiple wireless standards are used. This once again demonstrates the flexibility of the one-box test solutions from LitePoint and shows our continued commitment to our customers to provide the lowest cost-of-test development and manufacturing test solutions in the market," said Greg Ravenscroft, President / Advanced Development at LitePoint Corporation.
http://www.bbwexchange.com/pubs/2006/12/22/page1423-395028.asp

WiMAX to Gain Mainstream Acceptance Worldwide in 2007, Motorola Predicts, December 22, Boradband Wireless Exchange Magazine
Motorola, Inc. issued a year-end update on its wi4 WiMAX solutions. During 2006, Motorola achieved several milestones. The company announced agreements with Sprint Nextel and Clearwire in the United States, Wateen Telecom in Pakistan and Agni Systems, Ltd in Bangladesh for WiMAX systems. Clearwire and Sprint Nextel are the two largest holders of 2.5GHz spectrum in the United States. Increased to more than 20 the number of 802.16e mobile WiMAX trials underway around the world.
Began work on the build out of the new 3.5GHz nationwide wireless broadband voice and data network for Wateen Telecom, part of Warid Telecom International. Phase 1 rollout, covering major cities in Pakistan, is near completion and recently end-to-end voice and data services were successfully tested on the Wateen Telecom WiMAX/IMS network. Announced its WiMAX chipset design effort, launched its first and second generation WiMAX access points, unveiled its CPE portfolio, and demonstrated interoperability with PC cards using third-party chipsets as well as mobile WiMAX handoffs using its WAP400 series access points.
http://www.bbwexchange.com/pubs/2006/12/22/page1423-395032.asp

General WiMAX News

MiniCom assigns 55 WiMAX licenses, December 27, Business News Americas

Colombia's communications ministry Mincomunicaciones (MinCom) has assigned 55 departmental WiMax licenses for the 3.5GHz spectrum band, MinCom said in a statement. The ministry received 161 proposals from 24 companies on August 14 to provide services in the country's 32 departments but has repeatedly delayed announcing the winners and delivering the licenses, the date for which was originally set as 15 working days after the proposals were opened on August 17. Cable operator Cable Unión de Occidente received 19 licenses, operator Comcel, a unit of América Móvil (NYSE: AMX), received 13, while mobile carrier Avantel received seven, Comunicaciones Satelitales de Colombia six, Cablecentro five, and Emcali two, and operators Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de la Orinoquía, Wireless Colombia and Servisatélite received one license each. From the word go the auction was marred with controversy as several competitors such as mobile carrier Avantel accused the country's dominant mobile operator Comcel of delivering its proposal five minutes late. The ministry said that Comcel's proposal was delivered on time.
http://www.bnamericas.com/story.jsp?sector=2&noticia=376888&idioma=I
http://www.cellular-news.com/story/21155.php

WiMax IPOs on the Horizon, December 24, Tech News World

On Dec. 18 and 19, two wireless upstarts -- NextWave and Clearwire -- filed to go public with the Securities & Exchange Commission. Based on their S-1 forms, both companies hope to make their fortunes on WiMax, a broadband-wireless technology expected to start making significant inroads in the telecom market next year. Market researcher Gartner (NYSE: IT) Dataquest expects the North American WiMax services market to swell from 30,000 connections in 2006 to 21.2 million by 2011. What's the appeal of WiMax? The wireless technology could provide consumers with a new source of high-speed broadband services, threatening to displace digital subscriber lines (DSL), cable modems, and today's slower cellular and WiFi services.
http://www.technewsworld.com/story/54854.html

DoT to delicence extra WiMax bandwidth, December 24, Business Standard

The Department of Telecom (DoT) may delicence an additional 50 MHz bandwidth in the 5.825 GHz -5.875 GHz frequency which can be used for commercial WiFi and WiMax services. “The department has already delicensed 80 MHz bandwidth in the 2.4 GHz band for outdoor WiFi applications. We are now considering delicensing another 50 MHz band in the 5.82 GHz — 5.875 GHz frequency for outdoor applications of WiFi as well as WiMax,” a DoT official said. If the WiMax spectrum is allocated to telecom operators, it will help them expand their broadband network, specially in rural areas due to the large network range of WiMax. And with the government already declaring 2007 as the year of broadband, WiMax will play an important role in broadband expansion in the country. The telecom ministry plans to take the number of broadband subscribers to 20 million by 2010 from the current 3 million.
http://www.business-standard.com/common/storypage.php?autono=269110&leftnm=3&subLeft=0&chkFlg=

Embratel to start pilot WiMax project in Jan, December 24, Cellular-News

Brazilian long distance carrier Embratel intends to start a pilot WiMax project in the city of São Paulo in January, newspaper Valor Econômico reported. The large scale commercial launch of WiMax is only likely to happen in the middle of 2007, Ivan Campagnolli, Embratel's executive director of technology and network quality, said. The company aims to secure national coverage in all cities over 500,000 inhabitants, with a focus on clients who opt for four voice lines as well as broadband services. Embratel, which is part of the Mexican telecoms group Telmex, obtained Brazil's only national license for WiMax offered in 2002. Another auction for WiMax licenses in the 3.5GHz and 10GHz frequency bands is currently on hold due to a dispute over the bidding rules. Brazilian fixed line operators such as Brasil Telecom and Telemar have questioned why the bidding rules forbid operators from acquiring WiMax licenses in their own concession areas. Some

100 companies including fixed line operators presented preliminary bids for the 3.5GHz and 10GHz licenses.
http://www.cellular-news.com/story/21135.php

ShinSat can test WiMax, December 24, The Nation
The telecom regulator has approved in principle the application of Shin Satellite to test WiMax wireless broadband Internet-access service to see if it will jam its Thaicom 5 satellite. ShinSat plans to share some of the satellite's 3.5GHz spectrum with a Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access service. The National Telecommuni-cations Commission will now examine whether ShinSat's concession allows the company to use its existing frequency to test WiMax. Recently the NTC decided that telecoms operating between 2.5GHz and 3.5GHz could apply to conduct WiMax tests ahead of offering the service commercially. ShinSat, True Corp and TOT are the first in line to develop WiMax as they are already using the frequencies for their existing businesses. ShinSat occupies the 3.5GHz spectrum, True's pay-TV operator UBC True has 2.5GHz and TOT is at 2.4GHz. The frequencies were assigned to them by the now defunct frequency-allocation committee.
http://nationmultimedia.com/2006/12/25/business/business_30022411.php

TIME and MSCMS sign deal, December 23, The Star Online
TIME Engineering Bhd has signed a teaming agreement with MSC Management Services Sdn Bhd (MSCMS), a subsidiary of Multimedia Development Corp Sdn Bhd, for the provision of air broadband WIMAX and WIFI solutions and services. In a statement yesterday, TIME said under the deal, MSCMS would appoint and support TIME as its technology partner for the marketing and provisioning of technology and services for air broadband products to Malaysia non-exclusively and exclusively for Asean. "With this agreement, we will be able to play a role in providing the solutions and services in line with the National Broadband Plan," it said
http://biz.thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2006/12/23/business/16403174&sec=business
http://www.theedgedaily.com/cms/content.jsp?id=com.tms.cms.article.Article_a9718da2-cb73c03a-23426500-a5a2471e

WiMAX auctions to be held in 2007, December 23, Telegeography
As part of an initiative to attract more investment in the broadband internet sector, Cyprus' telecoms regulator the OCECPR says it will auction WiMAX licences next year. 'Our duty is to create the right environment for fair competition so that every household gets access to broadband and wireless services,' the watchdog said at the presentation of a wide-ranging report on the telecoms sector. It added that it aims to reverse the digital gap between urban and rural areas, addressing the current situation where the bulk of broadband connections are only available in major towns. The regulator is currently in the process of dividing the island into different zones for licensing purposes, ahead of an auction for fixed wireless access concessions scheduled for the second half of 2007, with new operators expected to launch services in 2008. The OCECPR reported that fixed line incumbent Cyta maintained its dominance in the wireline market with a 94% share of local telephony customers at the end of June 2006, with the remaining 6% shared between OteNet, Telepassport and PrimeTel. Cyta's share of the international calls market was 81.3% at that date, whilst it held a 62% market share in the internet access sector, with ISPs including OteNet, Avacom, PrimeTel and Spidernet splitting the remaining 38%. PrimeTel, which launched ADSL2+ connections for residential and business users in April 2006, is Cyta's sole rival in the broadband market, and the incumbent held onto 98.2% of high speed internet subscribers by end-September 2006.
http://www.telegeography.com/cu/article.php?article_id=16024&email=html

Lattelecom launches WiMAX trial, December 22, Telegeography
Lattelecom has announced the launch of a small WiMAX trial network in the capital Riga. Ten customers will now test the quality and usability of the new network, which comprises two base stations installed in the Kengarags and Marupe districts of the capital. While testing the WiMAX technology, Lattelecom will offer two different connection speeds – 1Mbps and 2Mbps. 'Offering internet technologies with WiMAX

technologies in suburbs is an optimal way of using the technology. It is comparatively expensive to install cables in such areas, but they are heavily populated by people who have no internet access. Elsewhere in Latvia, the spread of WiMAX technologies is made more difficult by the relatively low population density. In such places, installation of the services is expensive,' said acting Lattelecom commerce director, Janis Ligers. Pilot trials of WiMAX will continue until March of next year, with some 45 clients being hooked up. Lattelecom will then take a decision on the further expansion of its WiMAX strategy.
http://www.telegeography.com/cu/article.php?article_id=16022&email=html

SHD launches WiMAX in France, December 28th, WiMAX Day
The Société Haut Débit (SHD) in France, a joint venture owned by GSM operator SFR and fixed-line operator Neuf Cegetel, has launched the first ten sites for WiMAX in the centre of France. SHD was awarded licences for 3.5 GHz spectrum at auction in July of this year. The licences are for the two wealthiest regions of France, "Ile de France" (Paris and its surroundings) and "Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur" (South-East of France, including Marseille, St Tropez, Cannes and Nice). SHD is using equipment from Alcatel. SHD will deploy a total of 443 sites within 6 years, with 306 sites in the Ile de France region and 137 sites in Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur.
http://www.wimaxday.net/site/2006/12/28/shd-its-first-wimax-sites-in-france/