



SATELLITE BROADBAND IDEAL 'PLAN B' FOR DISASTER RELIEF

Media release, 19 December 2007, BayCity Communications, Christchurch, New Zealand: Recent agreements with mobile satellite dish manufacturers C-COM and systems integrators around the country are part of moves by BayCity Communications, NZ's IPSTAR satellite service operator, to position satellite telecomms as the ideal back-up option for disaster relief.

In a world that is experiencing increasing numbers of extreme weather events, governments and emergency organisations are moving rapidly to ensure they have every eventuality covered.

According to BayCity Communications general manager Duncan Boennic, satellite broadband offers a New Zealand emergency organisations a virtually weatherproof alternative form of telecommunications.

Recent contracts signed with regional and city councils demonstrate that officials involved with disaster relief agree with Boennic's point of view.

"Satellite communications are less vulnerable to weather events than communication systems that involve landlines which can be severed by falling trees or radio towers (cellular and wireless) that may be blown down or lose their power supplies.

"Traditional communications are only as strong as the weakest link in the chain – if one line goes down, it affects everyone on that line. If one tower goes, it affects everyone with line of sight to that tower, and the link to the next tower.

"If organisations have a viable alternative to terrestrial communications in place, then it is less likely that all systems will be affected at the same time by one event," Boennic said.

He also says by comparison with alternative back-up systems like fibre-optic cable, the costs of having a satellite broadband back-up system are not high.

BayCity Communications' recent signing as a reseller for listed Canadian company C-COM enables the company to offer even more flexible options for emergency relief command centres. BayCity combines C-COM's iNetVu dishes with a high-speed broadband data connection to offer a complete mobile communications solution.

The solution is ideal for companies needing to rapidly set up disaster relief command centres at short notice. The iNetVu dishes can be installed on a range of mobile environments including trucks, vans and trailers.

Once installed the dish can be configured to automatically align itself at the press of a button and provide immediate access to services including broadband Internet, VoIP telephony and data networks.

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About BayCity Communications:

BayCity Communications is the National Service Operator for a range of satellite based communication products throughout New Zealand, including broadband internet, Voice over IP and satellite TV. BayCity Communications has exclusive access to the IPSTAR telecommunications satellite in New Zealand and is contracted to provide New Zealand service providers with a range of wholesale bandwidth. The IPSTAR satellite was launched in 2006 and is the largest two-way communications satellite of its kind.

About C-COM and iNetVu:

Ontario based C-COM Satellite Systems, Inc. is a leader in the development and deployment of mobile satellite-based technology for the delivery of two-way high-speed Internet services into vehicles.

C-COM has developed a unique proprietary mobile self-pointing (iNetVu(tm)) antenna that allows the delivery of high-speed satellite based Internet services into vehicles while stationary, virtually anywhere one can drive.

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