



media information

29 May 2003

CAMBRIDGE BROADBAND WINS UK RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS AGENCY 3.5GHZ FIXED WIRELESS ACCESS DEPLOYMENT PROJECT



Cambridge, UK, 29 May 2003: A consortium including Cambridge Broadband Limited has been awarded a contract by the UK Radiocommunications Agency to deploy a fixed wireless access network in the 3.5GHz band using its VectaStar 3500 technology. The project is funded by the Radiocommunications Agency as part of its Spectrum Efficiency Scheme, and the results will be made publicly available to help all potential operators of these services.

The consortium aims to characterise the operation of commercial FWA systems, from initial deployment using in-band wireless backhaul, through to network optimisation for optical backhaul. It will investigate issues such as building for growth, multi-operator boundary planning, rural access, and integration with WiFi networks and hotspots

Peter Wharton, Chief Executive Officer of Cambridge Broadband, explains: “Until now, the 3.5GHz spectrum band has not been available for high-performance broadband networks in the UK, and this project will help demonstrate a workable business case to licensees. As the UK’s only 3.5GHz fixed wireless access equipment vendor, we are very pleased to be able to support the Radiocommunications Agency in a real deployment in this band.”

During the course of the nine-month project, a total of five base stations and more than 50 customer premises equipment (CPE) terminals will be deployed. The network will cover urban, suburban and rural geographies in Cambridge and the surrounding areas, and the VectaStar equipment will be deployed in a variety of configurations. As well as being used in a conventional point-to-multipoint configuration, a number of CPEs will be used as WiFi base stations. VectaStar will then be used in a point-to-point configuration to backhaul traffic from these WiFi hot spots. This means that operators can seamlessly manage their entire network from the end users through to the wide area network.

John Porter, Chief Technical Officer at Cambridge Broadband, comments: “Our VectaStar equipment is highly flexible and configurable, and can be easily monitored, which makes it ideal for this project, where we aim to identify the issues that are critical to success for operators. Deploying equipment in multiple configurations is exactly what the licensees will be doing, and the high level of spectral efficiency that VectaStar provides means that all these types of configurations can be supported simultaneously. The project will have real

end users, with real traffic going to and from an ISP, and we will be maintaining a detailed database of instantaneous traffic flows, radio equalisation and other parameters across the entire network.”

The two other project partners are the Laboratory for Communication Engineering in the University of Cambridge Engineering Department, and Cambridge-based independent consulting and research company Cotares Limited. Cotares will manage all aspects of the project including installation, the research programme, and decommissioning. The Laboratory for Communication Engineering will analyse the information gathered in the course of the project and develop models so that it can be applied to new situations.

The project is expected to start immediately, and results will be available in early 2004.

— ends

notes

1. For more information about any of the issues in this press release, please contact Nicky Dibben, Invention Marketing Limited, e-mail nicky@invention-marketing.co.uk, phone +44 (0) 1223 235399.
2. The picture, caption "Cambridge Broadband to deploy its fixed wireless access equipment as part of RA's Spectrum Efficiency Scheme", is available, please contact Nicky Dibben (as above).
3. A PDF version of this press release is available, please contact Nicky Dibben (as above).

About Cambridge Broadband www.cambridgebroadband.com

Cambridge Broadband has pioneered the development of carrier-class, point-to-multipoint broadband wireless access equipment for network operators wishing to deploy high-capacity, multi-service networks. The company is focused on delivering high quality multi-service networks with the best price-performance in the 3.5GHz band for license holders worldwide. Cambridge Broadband was formed in January 2000 by an experienced team with a strong record of successful innovation in broadband wireless design.

About VectaStar

Cambridge Broadband's 3.5GHz VectaStar 3500 system offers the most advanced combination of high bandwidth, high coverage and extended range on the market. It supports multiple carrier-class services simultaneously, each with robust QoS and has a 240Mbps duplex base station capacity that can deliver up to 60Mbps full duplex to an individual customer. VectaStar has excellent non-line-of-sight capability and self-backhaul at ranges up to 20Km, making it a compelling solution for network operators looking to deploy high-capacity multi-service networks.