

## **MASE pioneers e-Government: Local council seeks out critical technology from convergence experts**

Submitted by: Nelson Bostock Unlimited

Thursday, 26 July 2001

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MASE, the innovative DSL network integrator, has won the contract to supply a bespoke, integrated solution to Portsmouth City Council (PCC) in response to its e-Government requirements.

The leading specialist in converged voice and data networking has been responsible for the provision of equipment and the installation of local links at several trial sites. MASE has also been involved with maintenance within this cost effective, high capacity bandwidth network, which will connect the main site with over 140 schools and local offices.

MASE has engineered a legacy-free, innovative DSL solution, following a review of the council's specified requirements. In addition to the MASE solution, a high capacity central backbone will connect all remote sites to the civic centre. This will accommodate, amongst others, a complex new finance system and internet-based training courses, which the old network could not facilitate.

The council sites were previously linked through expensive connections that only offered low capacity access. However, the rapidly growing demand for bandwidth is making these links inadequate.

Successful pilot trials have already been completed in eight of the established sites, with installations in progress at further locations. The entire rollout of the DSL programme is scheduled for completion by early 2002.

Future potential for PCC's network includes providing smaller schools with internet access and an 'e-Government' programme linking customer service desks to centralised Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and data warehouse systems as part of the City Help Desk project.

"Our primary driver for this integrated corporate network has been e-Government, together with a new finance system, which will involve the transfer of huge amounts of data between all our departments, including Education and Social Services," said Dr. Robert France, Head of IT at PCC. "The MASE solution will integrate our existing system with contemporary converged technologies, to provide an innovative cost-effective high capacity network, which will meet our expanding requirements."

"The death of the mainframe and the standardised move to PC based systems have forced a growing number of local council's to reassess incumbent computer networks and their capabilities," said Raj Bhandari, director, MASE. "Having assessed the requirements at Portsmouth City Council, we are now in the process of deploying a cost effective, 'always-on' solution that dramatically increases the digital capacity of its existing technology across multiple sites."

MASE is part of neoscorp, who together with neosnetworks - the owner of neosnet™ - and Sohonet, provide a unique blend of experience, ambition and vision for the converged networking society.

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## About MASE

MASE is a specialist network integrator providing data, voice, and video communications solutions to local governments, universities, NHS sites and multi-site corporates. Established in 1992, MASE is now one of Europe's leading suppliers of converged networking on a local and national scale. The integrated technologies that the company deploys include wireless (microwave and infrared), DSL, leased lines and LES services. MASE is part of neoscorp, a leading UK provider of high-bandwidth, end-to-end communications solutions.

For further information please visit the MASE web site at: <http://www.mase.co.uk>

## About neoscorp

Founded in 1997 by Lord Young of Graffham, neoscorp is a leading UK provider of high-bandwidth, end-to-end communications solutions. As the holding company of neosnetworks, MASE and Sohonet, neoscorp combines the expertise and industry experience to provide innovative, flexible and cost-effective solutions to UK enterprises, service providers, public sector organisations and the media, film and creative industries.

For further information please visit the neoscorp web site at: <http://www.neoscorp.co.uk>

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