

IPWireless Mobile Broadband Technology to Power Sentech's 'MyWireless,' the First Nationwide Broadband Wireless Service in Africa

Submitted by: Pleon

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South Africans to Enjoy Affordable Broadband Speeds, Anytime, Anywhere – DSL Speed Without Wires, Wi-Fi Portability Without 'Hotspot' Limitations

SAN BRUNO, Calif.—December 9, 2003— Sentech, a leading South African telecommunications and broadcast services company, has launched a revolutionary new broadband wireless service that will be available to millions of users across South Africa by May 2004, IPWireless announced today. Utilising the standards-based IPWireless Mobile Broadband solution, Sentech's new service, "MyWireless," is the first of its kind in Africa, and marks the fourth announced national deployment of the IPWireless Mobile Broadband system. The full solution will be provided to Sentech through IPWireless' strategic distribution partner Axcera with their South African agent, Fastcomm, which will be providing all equipment, as well as project management, integration services and support for the deployment.

Commercial availability of MyWireless services will begin in January in the Gauteng province, which includes the metropolitan areas of Johannesburg, Midrand, Pretoria, and Soweto, followed by Durban in February, Cape Town in March, with coverage to most of South Africa by the second half of the year. The service brings consumers and businesses in South Africa a high-speed Internet access service that will work from home, work, or on the road, all without wires. MyWireless offers speeds as fast or faster than fixed-wire options like DSL, and provides an instantaneous, "plug-and-play" Internet connection that is affordable, reliable, and cost-effective.

Because the technology works wirelessly, IPWireless-powered networks provide an ideal broadband alternative for consumers and businesses located in areas where DSL is not available. In addition, unlike DSL, the IPWireless solution offers full portability. Like popular Wi-Fi applications but without the limitations imposed by "hotspots," IPWireless-powered networks will give users in South Africa real-time access to data wherever they are in the coverage area.

"Internet access in Africa is regarded as among the most expensive in the world. Due to bandwidth restrictions, the reality of Internet connectivity in South Africa has long been characterised by low-speed, unreliable connections at an exorbitant and fluctuating price. Now, technological advances, such as those provided by IPWireless, and a new regulatory framework have enabled Sentech to launch the first true broadband wireless service offering, capable of delivering unrestricted, high-speed, portable, always-on Internet access at an affordable monthly cost," said Dr. Sebilesto Mokone-Matabane, chief executive officer of Sentech.

"Sentech is dedicated to providing world-class solutions to our customers that not only improve their efficiency, but also have a positive impact in their communities," added Mokone-Matabane. "We are delighted to be able to offer the reliable and affordable IPWireless broadband wireless service across South Africa. We believe that the speed and accessibility inherent in the IPWireless solution will spawn a new generation of broadband applications that will enable South Africans to be more productive in their business and personal lives. We look forward to spearheading an exciting new era in

telecommunications.”

“We are pleased to welcome Sentech to the growing family of forward-thinking operators globally deploying Mobile Broadband networks. Sentech’s MyWireless offering exemplifies the evolution of broadband: an ‘always-on, anytime, anywhere’ experience that changes the way people think about being connected,” said Chris Gilbert, chief executive officer of IPWireless. “With announced commercial nationwide networks underway on four continents, IPWireless has proven it has both the right technology and the ability to execute and scale to meet worldwide demand.”

The IPWireless Mobile Broadband system is based on the UMTS TD-CDMA standard, a global standard that can be used by operators and manufacturers worldwide. The commercially proven Mobile Broadband system, which includes a complete network infrastructure, pocket-sized wireless desktop modems, and PC cards (PCMCIA) for laptops and PDAs, will be supplied to Sentech through a partnership between Axcera, a strategic distribution partner for IPWireless, and Fastcomm, a new company founded by telecommunication industry veterans that is committed to bringing high-quality wireless broadband to the African market. Axcera markets its IPWireless-based solution under the Axity3G brand. Axity3G has already received full-type approval for the South African market by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA).

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About IPWireless

IPWireless offers advanced standards-based broadband wireless technology that will drastically improve the way people around the world connect and communicate at home, at the office, or on the road. With a full range of commercial network solutions and devices, IPWireless allows operators to offer a spectrum of fixed, portable, or completely mobile wireless services with unmatched economics and broadband performance. IPWireless has quickly established itself as a leader in the market, with commercial deployments in service for more than a year, trials with ten of the top twenty global wireless operators, and strategic partnerships and relationships with industry leading companies. For more information, visit the company’s Web site at www.ipwireless.com.

About Sentech

Sentech has been at the leading edge of communication technology, pioneering the provisioning of broadcast signal distribution services. Sentech, a commercially operated, state-owned enterprise, is the largest signal distributor for broadcasting in Africa, transmitting programs for customers such as the SABC, M-Net, CNN, e-tv and the BBC to audiences across the continent.

Sentech is also a force in the telecommunications and multimedia industries, offering a range of high-end services such as International Telephony, Business Communications solutions, Data and Multicasting to organisations in Africa and to Telecommunications Operators globally. Sentech deploys the latest satellite and terrestrial based technology using IP based protocols for the services offered.

For more information, visit Sentech’s web page at www.sentech.co.za.

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