

# BT HELPS PLUG MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE BLACK SPOTS

Submitted by: Pirate Communications

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BT Wholesale launches low-powered telegraph pole transmitters

BT today announced the launch of its new Microconnect™ service, Microconnect TP. Microconnect TP is an innovative service in BT Wholesale's growing portfolio of low-power, wireless-coverage solutions designed to provide localised coverage for mobile operators in urban locations and areas of natural beauty. It will provide mobile phone operators with improved network coverage and the option to offer customers additional services.

Using low-powered transmitters attached to telegraph poles, Microconnect TP will help mobile operators overcome 'patchy' coverage in areas where the signal from main antennas is either weak, distorted or blocked by tall buildings or other obstructions.

BT Wholesale's innovative small telegraph pole antennas will help assist UK mobile operators to increase coverage and network capacity while minimising the visual impact on towns, city centres and key rural areas. The antennas are attached to existing telegraph poles and then linked back to discreet roadside cabinets, which hold the base station equipment and power supply.

Paul Reynolds, chief executive of BT Wholesale, said: "Microconnect TP is a further example of our developing portfolio of services for the mobile phone operators. The range of services we are developing using low-power antenna sites will bring benefits to the mobile phone operators, such as increased flexibility, speed of deployment as well as improved services for mobile phone users.

"The aim for the future is to use this innovative technology to help mobile operators save infrastructure build costs and avoid unnecessary duplication by sharing sites or antenna. The other major benefit of this is that we can boost coverage in hitherto difficult to reach urban areas by placing the small, inconspicuous, low power units on existing telegraph poles."

This new approach, along with other solutions being developed by BT, will enable mobile operators to offer a greater range of services to a wider section of the population

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About BT Wholesale

BT Wholesale is at the heart of BT Group, providing network services and solutions to communication companies throughout the UK. BT Wholesale provides comprehensive network services within the UK to more than 500 communication companies, network operators and service providers, including other BT businesses - BT Retail, BT Global Services and BT Openworld.

Inquiries about this news release should be made to:

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