

Milton Keynes schools network reaches out with Broadband Wireless equipment from Proxim

Submitted by: The Hoffman Agency (Europe)

Wednesday, 26 January 2005

Publicly-funded network enhances experience of over 35,000 pupils

London, United Kingdom, Jan. 26, 2005 - Proxim Corporation (Nasdaq: PROX), a global leader in wireless networking equipment for Wi-Fi and broadband wireless networks, has enabled broadband wireless access to schools and other public buildings in the Milton Keynes area. The network uses a combination of wired and wireless links to provide high-speed Internet access to 112 primary and secondary schools, with approximately 60% of those being served by a wireless link. Built and maintained by a partnership between The Open University and the Local Education Authority (LEA) the network provides access for over 35,000 pupils across the region.

In late 2002 the government pledged to deliver broadband connections to all UK schools by 2006(1). With uptake currently standing at 68%, up from 12.5% at the end of 2001, over £143 million is allocated for spending on school broadband connections in the academic year 2004-05(2). More than simply fast Internet access, broadband enables access to content and services delivered online reliably and effectively - it is essential to access increasingly digitally rich applications, and has been proved to increase enjoyment, motivation and interaction amongst teachers and pupils(3).

The network employs Proxim's Tsunami MP.11a solution to provide broadband wireless links from key network sites to schools across the region. Operating in the licence-exempt 5.8GHz spectrum, the solution can transfer data at speeds of up to 36Mbps, with links in Milton Keynes' network covering distances from a few hundred metres up to several kilometres.

"By using a combination of connectivity solutions to reach all the schools in the region we're able to use the right technology for the circumstances of each individual site," said Neil Roche, project manager at The Open University. "The topology of the area is ideal for wireless, enabling us to use the technology for a large number of links. This means we own a large proportion of our network, cutting the recurring costs of leased lines."

"Broadband has enabled staff, pupils, and schools in general to undertake entirely new activities, as well as completing familiar activities in new and innovative ways," commented Nick Kettle of Milton Keynes LEA. "The implementation of our network means that children across the region have the opportunity to access the wealth of information that the Internet has to offer."

"Education is a key focus for our company, and we're pleased to be working with The Open University and Milton Keynes LEA on this project," commented Anthony Fulgoni, UK and Ireland Sales Manager for Proxim. "With our range of broadband wireless and Wi-Fi products we provide schools with wireless connectivity both between buildings and inside them."

Proxim's Tsunami MP.11a family offers the industry's highest performance and scalability for a variety of wireless WAN applications including last mile access, security and surveillance and metropolitan networks. The solution also comprises the Tsunami broadband wireless access software platform, a

comprehensive set of wireless networking capabilities that enables WiMAX applications today and provides a clear migration to WiMAX Forum Certified status for the future.

About Proxim

Proxim® Corporation is a global leader in wireless networking equipment for Wi-Fi and broadband wireless networks. The company provides enterprise and service provider customers with wireless solutions for the mobile enterprise, security and surveillance, last mile access, voice and data backhaul, public hot spots, and metropolitan area networks. Product families include the Award-winning ORiNOCO Wi-Fi products, Tsunami Ethernet bridges, and Lynx point-to-point digital radios.

Proxim is a principal member of the WiMAX Forum™ and a member of the Wi-Fi® Alliance. The company is publicly traded on the NASDAQ under the symbol PROX and is on the Web at www.proxim.com.

1. Prime Minister's keynote speech to e-Summit, 19 November 2002,
<http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page1734.asp>
2. http://www.dfes.gov.uk/ictinschools/ict_active/subject.cfm?articleid=248#bbfaq4
3. Connecting with broadband: A pilot investigation of broadband technology impacts in schools,
<http://www.becta.org.uk/research/research.cfm?section=1&id=3304>

For further information please contact:

Mark Groves

Hoffman Europe

+44 (0) 1784 487 922/+44 (0) 7990 83 10 11

mgroves@hoffman.com