

Westell achieve unprecedented ADSL2+ performance

Submitted by: Cohesive Communications

Thursday, 5 May 2005

Unique ADSL solution from PacketFront and Westell boosts bit-rate

BASINGSTOKE, UNITED KINGDOM: May 5th, 2005 - PacketFront, the world leader in FTTH technology and next generation broadband aggregation, together with Westell, announces today a unique solution that greatly enhances the bit-rate and service capabilities for ADSL2+ users.

The unique solution, built for Mälarenergi Stadsnät in Västerås, Sweden, is based on PacketFront's IP-DSLAM and Westell's LiteLine modem, both products using 'best in class performance' ADSL2+ solutions developed by Broadcom Corporation. To fully demonstrate the capability of the solution, a recent field trial tested a combination of loop lengths, varying from 160 metres up to 7km, within the same cable binder. This cable binder was at 80% density during the field trial. Even though this is one of the toughest test scenarios with regards to cross talk interference, as much as 80% of the loops reached over 20 Mbit/s downstream and 100% reached over 7 Mbit/s.

Mälarenergi is today serving 30,000 households and 2,000 businesses in the region with triple-play services and is considered to be one of the most innovative utility companies in the business. The unprecedented performance of PacketFront's ADSL2+ solution and Westell's reliable and low-cost Liteline modems, will give Mälarenergi the opportunity to not only offer its more rural customers Internet access with very high bandwidth, but also the opportunity to launch multicast IP-TV and video on demand over ADSL.

Martin Thunman, CEO of PacketFront, commented: "One of the benefits of using Westell's modems is that they are one of the few designs that Packetfront have seen that provide stability: they continue to function consistently well under high-traffic load and varying line conditions. They don't reset, retrain or otherwise adversely affect the downstream data, which is particularly important when real-time video services are being provided."

"PacketFront has yet again delivered on its promise," said Robert Kjellberg, CEO of Mälarenergi Stadsnät. "The performance of their ADSL2+ solution together with Westell's modems is impressive. We are committed to being in the forefront with regards to delivering innovative triple-play services to all our customers, both over fibre and ADSL2+, and the results of this field trial shows us that we can continue to do so. Our plan is to offer higher and higher bandwidth, and ultimately services like multicast IP-TV and video on demand, to our ADSL2+ customers also."

Thunman continued, "Fibre is regarded as a superior access technology, on both performance and quality, and is seen to be more economical from a longer-term perspective. However, ADSL2+ poses an opportunity for our customers to reach more end users. Coupled with Westell's modems, which consistently deliver on high performance and ease of use, we are very pleased with the results of this field trial. Our solution for Mälarenergi shows that services requiring high bandwidth, such as multicast IP-TV and video on demand, can also be offered to ADSL2+ users."

About Westell

Westell Technologies, Inc. (NASDAQ: WSTL) headquartered in Aurora, Illinois is a Tier-1 provider of intelligent, carrier-class broadband access products, manufactured using a TL9000 registered quality management system. Westell offers high-speed broadband/DSL and VoIP technology products for carriers, service providers and business enterprises around the world.

ConferencePlus, a Westell subsidiary, offers conferencing services including voice, video, and IP data conferencing, to carriers and multi-national corporations throughout the world.

Westell's international operations are centered in Westell's offices in the UK. Westell Ltd. can be found at www.westell.co.uk and the corporate headquarters site can be found at www.westell.com.

About PacketFront

PacketFront is the leader in open access FTTH technology and next generation broadband aggregation. PacketFront's fully automated solutions enable new and flexible business models through supporting triple-play services from multiple competing service providers. Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, and with offices in Tokyo and Boston, PacketFront's solutions are in operation in numerous networks across the world. www.packetfront.com

Press Contacts

Martin Thunman, CEO, PacketFront

Tel: +46 (0) 8 709 82 11

Email: mt@packetfront.com

Ingrid Aksnes, Marketing Communications Manager, PacketFront

Tel: +46 (0) 8 709 82 53

Email: ingrid@packetfront.com

Folu Babatola/David Evans (For Westell)

Cohesive Communications Ltd.

Tel: +44 (0) 1291 626200

Email: folub@cohesive.uk.com