Pacific Skies - Broadband for Asia

Applications: Satcom Network Systems and Services

"Within the Pacific Skies project we have created a 'hub within a hub' that allows each ISP to fully manage their own resources without the need for a large capital investment."
Steve Collar, Vice President of Asset Management and Product Development, New Skies Satellites

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PROJECT PARTNER:

Alcatel Bell Space (Belgium)

PROFILE:

The aim of the Pacific Skies project is to develop and pilot a new service, which it is hoped will become a sustainable operational business. The service, branded IPsys Broadband, offers two-way Internet Access for corporate end users and will be distributed through local service providers. The network will support services typically demanded by corporate users, such as Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) suitable for Intranets and Extranets.

South East Asia has been reluctant to embrace the use of Ku-band, which is necessary to reduce end-user equipment costs to the level required to penetrate the market. The lack of sufficient technical solutions, in turn, leads to a commercial reluctance to invest in Ku-band services.

In order to achieve the goals of the project, a number of developmental objectives must be met:

- The implementation of rain fade countermeasures and turbo-coded return carriers, which are essential in the provision of services in rainy regions such as South East Asia.
- The implementation of multi-ISP network management tools, which allow ISPs to operate independent networks within a shared hub, minimizing the investment required for small- and medium-sized ISPs to provide satellite broadband services.
- A successful pilot phase with real end users acting as a proof-of-concept and showing the feasibility of two-way Ku-band services for broadband access.

Together, these development objectives overcome the technical hurdles and address the reluctance of the market to invest in Ku-band services. It is hoped that the project will seed the market for DVB-RCS services in Asia and lead to an increase in both the number of subscribers and the number of networks in the region.