

PRESS RELEASE
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Backing the right horse in the Broadband Internet Access race

- *New white paper examines the pros & cons of multiple broadband access technologies*
- *Suggests the best route for service providers to satisfy consumer demand*

Broadband networking specialist, PAV Data Systems has today launched its white paper report into the different technology options for providing broadband Internet access services in Europe. The white paper, available at www.pavdata.com, is the first definitive study into the merits and drawbacks of the four main broadband access solutions – Copper DSL, fibre-optic cable, radio / microwave technology, and optical wireless access.

The study focuses on the history of deregulation in Europe, examines the likely speed and success of government efforts to open access to local telephone networks, and looks at the likely hurdles service providers face in gaining wholesale access from incumbent operators.

It concludes that rollouts of the popular DSL technology option will be dogged by regulatory and technical obstacles in most countries and encourages service providers to adopt a hybrid technology approach, using wireless solutions to seize a time to market advantage.

“Internet subscriptions continue to rise in Europe but true use of the medium for e-commerce is not viable with archaic dial-up connections. The demand is for broadband. But each access solution has pronounced strengths and weaknesses – DSL is a slave to the pace of local loop unbundling, ‘fibre to the curb’ solutions are expensive and radio has licensing and capacity drawbacks,” explains Richard Redgrave, Marketing Director at PAV Data Systems.

“Instead of backing one horse, European broadband service providers need the flexibility to use a melange of different access technologies to provide consumers and businesses with the best possible solution both now and in the future.”

Notes to editors:

PAV Data Systems is the UK's leading manufacturer of Broadband Optical wireless Access systems for the transmission of voice and data in Wide Area Network (LAN-to-WAN) applications. These are typically delivering the “last mile” connections.

PAV's range of products includes four series: PAV SkyCell, PAV SkyCom, PAV SkyNet and PAV SkyVision. The PAV SkyCell and PAV SkyCom ranges link telecommunications networks and both use G.703 E1 and E2 interfaces to provide transmission speeds of 2Mb/s or 8Mb/s. PAV SkyCell is typically used by cellular network providers to link micro and pico-cells to base station telecommunications systems sites.

PAV Skynet is used for data networking applications. This series provides a range of data protocols and transmission speeds spanning Token Ring (4 and 16 Mb/s); Ethernet (10 Mb/s); Fast Ethernet & FDDI (100 Mb/s) through to ATM connectivity over the wide area and eliminates transmission bottlenecks and reduces costs.

All optical systems need a clear line of sight between units and depending on which model is used, distances of up to 6 km can be achieved.

PAV is expanding a distribution network that already reaches more than 30 countries worldwide. With literally thousands of systems installed, the company has enjoyed quarter on quarter sales growth since it was founded in 1994. PAV has also been chosen by Motorola to supply it with a large quantity of equipment for use in the Middle East. In January 1999, Granville Baird Capital Partners, specialists in helping growth in technology companies, invested more than £2 million to fund the further growth and development of the company.

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