LINZ AG and LANCOM open up rural areas of Upper Austria - WLAN point-to-point links take broadband Internet to 20,000 customers

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Aachen, January 8, 2009—Wireless LAN point-to-point links from the networking specialists Rohde & Schwarz Networks and Cybersecurity are the basis for the Upper-Austrian LINZ AG to provide broadband Internet access to 20.000 customers without ADSL

Access to broadband Internet today is a vital regional and competitive factor. Local authorities in areas without DSL are increasingly reporting the exodus of business — a situation that affects not only Germany but its neighboring countries too. The problem is that the provision of fiber-optic cabling is a major undertaking and is simply too expensive for many providers.

To supply highly cost-effective broadband Internet access to areas with under-developed infrastructure, LINZ AG decided to follow a different route: With the help of WLAN access points from LANCOM — many of which are the highly robust outdoor models — in combination with specialized directional antennas, the provider installed several hundred high-performance point-to-point links between 2004 and 2008. These links cover distances of several kilometers to provide connections to the nearest Internet backbone for dozens of remote towns and villages around Linz.

This high-performance outdoor solution provides up to 20,000 companies and private homes with access to high-speed Internet over wireless. No elaborate construction work was required. Existing electricity pylons, mobile telephony masts and substations are used as distributors, many of which already have backbone connectivity.

"For us as a provider, wireless LAN is the ideal alternative to fiber optics. Even in poor weather the point-to-point links from LANCOM reliably supply highest bandwidth communications. This was a fundamental requirement for this project," summarizes Andreas Kamleitner, the engineer responsible for Wireless Communications at LINZ AG.

LANCOM presents the products used by LINZ for broadband connectivity along with more WLAN and networking solutions at this year's CeBIT in Hanover, Germany from March 03 – 08 (hall 13, booth C34).

Rohde & Schwarz Networks and Cybersecurity background

Rohde & Schwarz Networks and Cybersecurity GmbH is the leading German manufacturer of reliable, innovative network components for large enterprises and SMEs, public authorities and institutions. The company supplies products and software for IP-based VPN, VoIP and wireless networks, along with support and services. Products are planned and developed specifically for the requirements of business customers. The focus is on comprehensive solutions for site connectivity by virtual private networks (VPN) and on wireless networking (WLAN). Rohde & Schwarz Networks and Cybersecurity GmbH is headquartered in Würselen near Aachen and has sales offices in Munich, Barcelona, Bozen-Bolzano and Amsterdam. The company's founder and Managing Director is Ralf Koenzen.

LINZ AG background

LINZ AG for power, telecommunications, transportation and community services is the provider of energy and infrastructure services in the central region of Upper Austria. The multi-utility provider offers a wide range of products and services. These include power, gas, thermal energy, telecommunications, water, refuse and waste-water disposal, public transport and community services. The area served by LINZ AG has 105 towns and villages distributed over an area of almost 2,300 km2.

The company has over 2,600 employees, it is a major investor and an important constituent of the economy in Upper Austria. LINZ AG TELEKOM is a business unit of the LINZ STROM GmbH within the LINZ AG Holding, it is the leading alternative provider of information and communications services in Upper Austria, and it specializes in customized solutions for site connectivity and Internet access. These core competences are supplemented by services in housing and hosting, security and monitoring, business cooperation, and consulting. LINZ AG TELEKOM thus provides security and bears responsibility for the Upper Austrian economy.

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