



PRESS RELEASE

Laser plays major part in Balkan reconstruction

Voice and data over laser for major banks in Zagreb following partnership link-up, marks strategic move into Eastern Europe for Cablefree

Surrey/Zagreb, 1 November, 2000 – Cablefree Solutions, the leading free-space optical laser, communications solution provider, in cooperation with its new Croatian business partner, Micro-Link d.o.o., has begun the supply of laser optical wireless connectivity solutions in Croatia. A first strategic installation has been completed with the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development (HBOR), with a second at the Croatian National Bank (HNB).

In the first banking installation, the Micro-Link team has installed a Cablefree CF500 100+2 system at the HBOR, where it connects voice and data between two different company locations, 200m apart, in downtown Zagreb.

Linked between each location by the Cablefree CF500 are two Ericsson MD110 PBXs transmitting voice at 2Mbps, together with two Fast Ethernet networks requiring the 100Mbps transfer of data traffic between each building.

The single-link installation at the HBOR interleaves the G.703 voice and Fast Ethernet data into a single data stream. The stream is then separated into its individual components again at the receiving end.

“The HBOR system solution was installed and operational in a single day!” exclaimed Darko Zvan, Technical Manager at Micro-Link. “And not only have the two connectivity problems of linking voice and data been solved by the CF500 in quick time, but the installation has also made a huge saving for the customer. Leased-line costs including annual rental charges do not exist.”

The second installation at the HNB, involves a Cablefree CF200, 155 Mbps ATM system, interconnecting two BayNetworks' ATM switches at two business locations across a distance of 180m.

These successes mark the first entry of Cablefree systems into central and Eastern Europe. The company expects to expand its activities in the region, particularly due to the increasing regional uptake of the Internet in both business and domestic scenarios. Cablefree's systems offer businesses, like ISPs, a cost-effective, uncomplicated and rapid route to delivering high-bandwidth, revenue-generating services to their customers, in place of more expensive fixed and radio-based options, which also experience delays due to licensing restrictions.

"One of the problems of using 'wireless' systems in former communist bloc countries is that certain MW frequencies in the radio spectrum are still licensed to the military," said Mike Roach, Chief Engineer at Cablefree.

"Micro-Link has been forward looking in solving this and other wireless connectivity problems easily, effectively and inexpensively using future-proof, upgradeable Cablefree systems."

"This success at HBOR marks the start of what we expect to be a long and fruitful business relationship with our Croatian partners," added Penny Lee, Cablefree Director.

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