

Archive Press Releases

IRISH BROADBAND TO OFFER REVOLUTIONARY PORTABLE BROADBAND SERVICE - Ripwave™

Irish Broadband, specialists in broadband wireless has announced the planned development of Ripwave™ a device which can connect customers to the Internet once their premises is within 5km of a base station. The customer plugs the Ripwave™ device into any plug socket and they receive broadband Internet access within minutes. The revolutionary product does not rely on line of sight, in addition to the urban areas this will particularly benefit the roll out of broadband services in rural areas.

Ripwave™ is approximately the size of a closed fist and is portable which means it can be used in a friend's house or Internet café provided it is within the High Site catchment area. This innovative design will allow Irish Broadband to bring 'always on' Internet access to their residential and SOHO customers in a cost effective and efficient manner. Ireland is lagging behind many other countries in terms of broadband penetration and Irish Broadband aims to 'unwire' local communities by bringing broadband to urban and rural areas.

The start up speed with Ripwave™, will be 512K and the device will work to higher speeds on an asymmetrical basis. The cost of the basic package to the residential user is €30 per month including VAT with a connection fee of €120. Other enhanced services will be available for both residential customers and small offices. The key features of Ripwave™, which uses equipment from Navini Networks, Inc. include multi-megabit network speeds, a zero-install™ plug-and-play modem, and unfettered broadband access anywhere in the coverage area. The always-on system allows broadband access in geographical areas that have been historically under-served by other broadband technologies.

The average wait for a broadband connection - if the customer is in an area with DSL coverage - is typically several weeks. However, with Navini's next-generation wireless technology, Irish Broadband can immediately and affordably deliver a modem to the customer, who can be up and running on their broadband connection on the same day. Testing on this innovative new product will commence in June in South Dublin.

"Minister Dermot Ahern expressed his wish to see the delivery of affordable, always-on Internet access at the launch of Irish Broadband. I am confident that through 'Ripwave™ we can deliver on Minister Ahern's wishes as well as lowering prices and expanding our customer base", said Paul Doody, Managing Director, Irish Broadband.

"Irish Broadband plans to aggressively deploy the most advanced broadband technology available throughout Ireland," said Alastair Westgarth, president and CEO of Navini Networks. "Navini is proud to be associated with such a progressive organisation to further our European presence."

The Irish Broadband network is up and running throughout South Dublin and the City Centre having secured high sites in Donnybrook, Three Rock, Sandyford, Tallaght, Blackrock, the Digital Hub area, Mountjoy Square, and Fitzwilliam Square. Irish Broadband will be announcing further roll out in North Dublin and surrounding counties in quick succession over the coming months. The company has increased their staff

numbers to deal with the significant demand for the service.

About Irish Broadband

Irish Broadband provides high-speed Internet access using wireless technology. The company obtained a telecommunications license from the Office of the Director of Telecommunications (ODTR) in mid July 2002 and began customer connection in August. Irish Broadband is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTR plc, Ireland's leading developer of private infrastructure. For more information on Irish Broadband, please visit www.irishbroadband.ie.

About Navini Networks

Headquartered in Richardson, Texas, the heart of the Telecom Corridor, Navini Networks offers patented wide-area wireless broadband technology delivering multi-megabit speeds to customers up to 8 miles from the base station. Navini was founded by successful Silicon Valley entrepreneur Wu-Fu Chen and industry expert Dr. Guanghan Xu, and provides nomadic, zero-install™, non-line-of-sight infrastructure to allow for anytime, anywhere Web access. Navini Networks' Ripwave™ products consist of a desktop modem or PCMCIA card, base station, and element management system (EMS) and run in the 2.3, 2.4, 2.5/2.6 and 3.5 GHz spectrums. Navini's solution results in a price/performance combination that is superior to other broadband offerings - wired or wireless - in the marketplace. To date, Navini has received \$91.5 million in funding from top-tier investors such as Austin Ventures, Granite Ventures, Sequoia Capital, Sternhill Partners, as well as Alcatel, Intel and Sanmina. For more information on Navini, please visit www.navini.com.

Enquiries

Caitlin O'Connor
Head of Market Development
Irish Broadband
+00-353-1-2063776
Caitlin.oconnor@ntrbroadband.ie

Or

Maeve Governey
Heneghan Public Relations
+00-353-1-6607395
maeve@hpr.ie