CED broadband direct

From the staff of CED Magazine

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Today's report from the staff of CED Magazine

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CableLabs stamps ARRIS CMTS for DOCSIS 2.0

Jeff Baumgartner, CED

ARRIS' flagship cable modem termination system (CMTS), the Cadant C4, has become the latest product to win the coveted DOCSIS 2.0 qualification stamp from **CableLabs**, following results from certification wave 29.

ARRIS' chassis-based product is just the third CMTS to obtain DOCSIS 2.0 qualification. ARRIS' "pizza-box" CMTS, the C3, **won that distinction in April**, following test wave 28. **Terayon Communication Systems'** BW 3500 was the first CMTS to gain 2.0 qualification.

CableLabs also granted DOCSIS 2.0 certification to modems from **Ambit**, **Linksys** and **Thomson**, and re-certified products from **Conexant Systems** (two modems), **Motorola Broadband** and **Scientific-Atlanta** (two modems).

CableLabs also qualified CMTSs from Motorola and **ADC** for DOCSIS 1.1. **BigBand Networks** is in the process of purchasing ADC's CMTS assets.

Cable's Colorado-based R&D house said wave 29 marked the first time that all submitted DOCSIS devices passed certification or qualification in a single testing wave.

In other certification news, CableLabs awarded CableHome 1.1 status to two Linksys-made cable modem gateways.

CableLabs is slated to kick off certification wave 30 next month and share

results on or around Aug. 18.

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Trimm in, Bryant out as Concurrent CEO

Jeff Baumgartner, CED

In a major executive shuffle, **Concurrent Computer Corp.** (on Thursday named Gary Trimm to the post of president and CEO.

Trimm, who most recently held the same title at optical transport startup **OpVista Inc.**, will take on his new role at Concurrent on or before July 26. Before OpVista, Trimm held several executive positions at **Scientific-Atlanta**. He will replace Jack Bryant, who "will be pursuing other opportunities," the company said. Bryant joined Concurrent in late 2000.

Separately, Concurrent named Warren Neuburger as president of the company's Integrated Solutions Division. Neuburger, who most recently served as president and COO of Optio Software, replaces Bryant as the acting president of the division.

"I am confident that the addition of these dynamic, proven leaders will play a significant role in the further development and execution of our strategic plan in both our Integrated Solutions and video-on-demand industry segments," said Steve Nussrallah, Concurrent's chairman, in a statement.

Bryant's is the most recent in a string of recent executive departures at Concurrent. Earlier this month, Dena Bradshaw, Concurrent's former director of sales, joined competing video server vendor **Broadbus** as vice president of regional sales. In February, former Concurrent vice president of sales David Nicholas left to head up domestic and international sales at **N2 Broadband**.

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Kerry, Bush campaign as friends of high tech

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San Jose Mercury News

June 25, 2004, Friday

By Laura Kurtzman

From Lexis Nexis

With Silicon Valley finally recovering from the dot-com bust, both Sen. John Kerry and President Bush pitched themselves as advocates of high-tech Thursday.

Kerry spoke at San Jose State University about creating jobs through investment in technology, particularly high-speed Internet access. He repeated a call to bring a national broadband network to the remotest rural areas "just the way we brought electricity to every home in America."

Kerry was buoyed by an endorsement from former Chrysler Chairman Lee

Gartner

Iacocca, who supported Bush in 2000 but now says he wants a change at the top. "We need a new CEO and president," Iacocca said. "I say this not as a partisan but as an unabashed patriot."

The Bush campaign pointed out that the president has been endorsed by tech leaders, such as E-Bay's Meg Whitman. Not to be outdone on technology issues, Bush on Thursday reiterated the plan he announced this spring for affordable broadband to be available nationwide by 2007.

"We're seeing the spread of broadband throughout the country," he said, while speaking about the nation's business climate at the Commerce Department in Washington. "Yet, on a per capita basis, America ranks 10th amongst the industrialized world. That's not good enough."

Kerry and Bush do not differ radically on their approach to the issue of broadband. Kerry would rely more on giving tax credits to the companies that build the networks in rural areas or at faster speeds anywhere in the country, while Bush focuses more on removing regulatory obstacles.

"Tech issues really do not break down on partisan lines," said Rick White, the CEO of TechNet, a bipartisan advocacy group for the high-tech industry. The group estimates that building a network could spur the creation of 1.2 million jobs nationwide, a figure that Kerry used in his speech.

Broadband has failed to take off as fast as technology advocates would like, largely because the economy has been so slow to recover from the tech bust. The tech meltdown was itself brought on in part by excessive investment in telecom networks that failed to connect to large numbers of homes. Even as high-speed Internet has become more available, reaching about half the homes in urban areas, new applications have demanded more bandwidth and greater speed than is now available in most places.

As the economic picture has brightened, with the creation of more than 1 million new jobs nationwide since January, Kerry has shifted his focus from attacking Bush for losing jobs to promoting himself as the better candidate to return the country to boom times. Bush, in turn, says the recovery is a result of his tax cuts.

Terry Christiansen, a political science professor at San Jose State University, said the candidates were shrewd to seize on the broadband issue as a means of promoting their high-tech credentials. Unlike the arcane question of expensing stock options, broadband can readily be understood by Americans who use the Internet.

"I think it's an issue that enables them to talk about high-tech but not so narrowly that it only appeals to Silicon Valley," he said.

Kerry said Bush's remarks on promoting broadband access were just "rhetoric" that the president included only as a retort to Kerry's focus on technology.

"The president talks, period. He has no policy," Kerry said in a conference call with reporters after his speech. "He's had no initiative. He's been president for four years and he's only been talking about it because I've been talking about it. I have a plan."

Bush also spoke about the need for broadband this spring in speeches in Minnesota and New Mexico, although his remarks then also came as Kerry was focusing on the issue.

Kerry also proposed eliminating the capital gains tax for investments in small

businesses for at least five years, an idea he floated at a Stanford University appearance in December. The cut would help venture capitalists who put money into start-ups.

The idea was warmly received by several venture capitalists, although it was not at the top of their list of things a president should do to spur the economy.

Andy Bechtolsheim, a founder of Sun Microsystems and an early investor in Google, was more interested in stopping the Federal Accounting Standards Board from adopting new rules to require companies to expense stock options. But he said Kerry's idea would help.

"It enhances the return for investors," he said at a rally in downtown Palo Alto to protest the proposed stock option rules, an issue that Kerry did not address directly. Kerry once opposed expensing stock options, but changed his mind after the corporate accounting scandals.

The Bush campaign said the president had done more to stimulate the Silicon Valley economy through his tax cuts.

"The technology industry has always needed a strong economy for it to flourish," Floyd Kwamme, a venture capitalist who has been one of Bush's most prominent Valley supporters, said in a statement released by the campaign. "The president's pro-growth policies have helped restore the economy."

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Court trims back FCC media ownership rule

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United Press International

From Lexis Nexis

A U.S. court has tossed new rules by the Federal Communications Commission that would have made it easier for media conglomerates to get even bigger.

The limit of the national TV audience a broadcaster could reach with its local stations had been 35 percent before the FCC raised it last June, USA Today reported Friday.

On Thursday, though, the 3rd U.S. Court of Appeals told the FCC to justify or modify its June 2003 decision to:

-- Allow a company to own a newspaper and TV or radio station in all but the smallest cities. Such combinations had been banned. The court backed repeal but said the analysis of allowable deals based on market size was flawed;

-- Permit ownership of two TV stations in small to midsize markets and up to three in large cities. Previously, owning two stations was allowed only in big cities; and

-- Maintain old limits on the number of radio stations a broadcaster can own in each market.

Adelphia wins exit loan OK

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June 25, 2004 Friday

Daily Deal/The Deal

by Greg Johnson

From Lexis Nexis

Adelphia Communications Corp. has won approval for $8.8 billion in exit financing. Judge Robert Gerber in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York in Manhattan approved the funding package Tuesday, but his order was not released until Wednesday.

Gerber said he gave his nod because of the Greenwood Village, Colo., cable company's willingness to explore a dual track approach to its reorganization that includes both a stand-alone plan and the possibility that all or most of the cable provider's assets would be sold at auction. Adelphia initially was hesitant to consider putting its assets up for sale at auction.

While a number of parties objected to the exit loan because of its size and fees, Gerber believes making this argument now is premature because a reorganization plan has not yet been filed.

Adelphia Communications filed for Chapter on June 25, 2002.

Kasenna demos ATCA-compliant VOD

Joe Bant, CED

Kasenna is unveiling a new, next-generation on-demand software platform for telecom operators that uses the standard Advanced TCA (ATCA) architecture.

Kassena, which demonstrated the ATCA-based software powered by **Intel Corp.** processors this week, said the ATCA capabilities will grow density performance.

"The densities of scale offered by the ATCA architecture allow us to offer upwards of 10,000 streams from a relatively small form factor server," said Mark Gray, Kasenna's president and CEO, in a release. "Our distributable video servers and our clustering technologies, combined with the ATCA architecture, scale to meet the needs of the largest operator deployments very cost-effectively."

SCTE sets ET '05 paper chase

The **Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers** is seeking white paper proposals for the 2005 Conference on Emerging Technologies, slated for Jan. 11-13 in Huntington Beach, Calif.

ET officials said they will review all technical proposals, but will give preference to those addressing the subjects of bandwidth management, the "in-home environment," wireless technologies, advances in competing technologies and information on strategies that will prevent cable from becoming a "dumb pipe. ET generally explores technologies that are most likely to impact the cable industry in the next three to five years.

SCTE has set a proposal submission deadline of Aug. 6, and expects to notify selected presenters by Sept. 3. Interested participants are asked to submit proposals as a one-to-two-page abstract to et_info@scte.org. Additional information about the conference and paper submissions is available **on the Web**.

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Boeing, Teekay stow away at high-speed

Joe Bant, CED

Connexion by Boeing is bringing high-speed Internet to the sea.

The Boeing division has reached an agreement with **Teekay Shipping Corp.** to launch a maritime trial of the Connexion Internet service over the North Atlantic this August. The services will reach 2.5 Mbps downstream to the vessel and 256 kbps upstream.

According to Connexion by Boeing, this capability will allow users to access the Internet and firewall-protected corporate intranets, send outgoing e-mails or open large attachments from incoming emails and get the news, weather or destination information.

"The maritime solution leverages the existing satellite and ground-based network Connexion by Boeing has established and will bring the same capabilities for robust, high-speed connectivity to the maritime industry," said Sean Schwinn, the company's vice president of strategy and business development, in a release.

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NFL Network adds Schematic to the graphical lineup

Joe Bant, CED

A graphical "lineup" from **Schematic** is making it easier for the **NFL Network** to promote its upcoming programming.

The lineup is designed to air on the network as a 15-second segment and resembles a program guide, according to the company. It displays two to four vertical bars featuring footage from upcoming shows with accompanying informational panels that contain the time slot and name of the show.

Dale Herigstad, executive creative director for Schematic, said in a release

that the project was "another step towards a more innate way to inform viewers."

The new lineups will launch in August, in time for the beginning of the NFL preseason.

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Broadband briefs:

• Motive kicks off IPO
Broadband provisioning software firm **Motive Inc**. moved ahead on an initial public offering that could raise about $50 million. The company is offering 5 million shares at $10 per share.

Motive's shares, which are trading on Nasdaq under the "MOTV" symbol, were up 3.8 percent to $10.38 per share in early trading Friday.

• WorldGate gets more 'Ojo' money
WorldGate Communications Inc. has raised $7.55 million in a private placement of series A convertible preferred stock and warrants with "several institutional investors."

WorldGate said it expects to use the funds to complete development and field trials of its "Ojo" videophone, and for capital to support the product's commercial launch later this year.

Worldgate's goal is to make Ojo "available to consumers for the Christmas selling season through our alliance with Motorola," said company Chairman and CEO Hal Krisbergh, in a release.

• Qwest names new exec
Dan Yost has been appointed the new executive vice president of product and marketing at **Qwest Communications International Inc.**

Yost, who has more than 30 years of experience in telecommunications industry, most recently served as president and COO of Allegiance Telecom Inc., a facilities-based local exchange carrier recently acquired by XO Communications. He has also had senior management stints at AT&T Wireless, McCaw Cellular Communications, MetroCel Cellular Inc. and NETCOM Online Communications.

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