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(For immediate use)

Businesses queue to connect to Allegro's next G network

Sunshine Coast businesses are queuing to take advantage of the impending availability of high speed broadband on the Sunshine Coast.

The next generation WiMAX service is still more than a month away, but the promise of speeds up to 40Mbps has local businesses signing up in advance.

Matthew Flinders Anglican College is the latest organization to sign up, joining other high profile "adoptees" in the Investa Property Group and Neuendorf Interiors.

Emerging young Queensland telco, Allegro Networks, who is partnering the Maroochy Shire Council, the Sunshine Coast University and the Federal Government in the \$5.8 million project, said delivery of the world class service was on track for the wider launch in April.

"For many, this service cannot come quickly enough," Allegro Managing Director, Mr David Waldie, said.

"An increasing number of businesses are starting to appreciate that high speed connectivity is business critical, not just business convenient.

"A few years ago, high speed internet was a bonus - today it's table stakes. It's what allows them to compete on a level playing field."

Plans to supply Sunshine Coast businesses with world class telecommunication services were unveiled in September last year, with the Federal Government committing \$2.9 million in funding under its Clever Networks Program.

The Maroochy Shire Council, Allegro and the Sunshine Coast University would jointly provide the other 50%.

Matthew Flinders Technology Manager, Mr Jon Seabrook, said the Allegro Networks service was not only competitively priced, but would provide the necessary building blocks for future technology service improvements such as VoIP (Voice over Internet protocol), streaming media and virtual classrooms.

"In an IT sense, the College wants to be delivering the best of breed solutions to its users - students, parents, staff and the broader community," he said.

"The symmetric service Allegro is offering will reduce the bottleneck of outgoing network traffic from the College, thus improving quality of service for staff, students and parents accessing MFAC web-based resources.

"We want to be at the forefront of educational delivery through our use of technology and this is one of many enablers the college is investing in."

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About Allegro

Allegro Networks is one of Queensland's largest wireless broadband internet server provider (ISP). The company has a young and dynamic management team with broad business experience, a proven track record, and impeccable telecommunication industry credentials. Allegro is chaired by Mr. Ted Pretty, the former head of Telstra's Product and Retail division, and current Chairman of Fujitsu Australia Limited. Co-founders and joint managing directors David Waldie and Andrew McMaster have also both worked for major Australian Telcos. In December 2006, Allegro invested more than a million dollars in the purchase of spectrum in the South East Queensland corner - the first step in the company's bold plan to build a WiMAX network servicing businesses in outer metropolitan Brisbane and up and down the growth corridors to the Gold and Sunshine Coasts and west to Ipswich. The Allegro proposition is all about performance enhancement - helping businesses in Australia's fastest growing region achieve greater efficiency and productivity by providing them with a superior telecommunications service.