

Allegro picked as partner in major SEQ project

Despite opening its doors just 14 months ago, locally based Telco Allegro Networks has been asked to partner south-east Queensland councils in their ambitious drive to provide high speed Internet access for local businesses and residents.

SEQ Connect, the company formed by the amalgamation of the councils, has chosen just three technology partners, in preparation for the march on Canberra to secure around \$100 million in funding for the project.

Allegro will be the sole provider of wireless infrastructure, while two others – Queensland company PIPE Networks and Sydney based telco NextGen are the two fibre network suppliers.

Council of Mayors Chairman, Brisbane Mayor Cr Campbell Newman, announced the successful partners at a media conference at Brisbane City Hall today.

SEQ Connect, in conjunction with their chosen telco providers and a fourth partner (Queensland Rail), will next month make representation to the Federal Government, for its share of the \$1.1 billion in funding allocated under the Telecommunications Minister Helen Coonan's Connect Australia project.

If successful, south-east Queensland would by late 2008, have an Internet infrastructure offering speeds upto 100 times faster than what's currently available.

The network would be a combination of fibre and wireless technology, and built in and around existing government owned water, electricity and sewerage infrastructure.

Allegro's responsibility would be the construction of more than 100 base stations, which in conjunction with the fibre would avail high speed Internet connection and coverage to 95% of southeast Queensland's Internet users.

Allegro's joint Managing Director, Mr David Waldie said the company's inclusion in such a pivotal project was a ringing endorsement of the young management team, and its bold WiMAX strategy.

"WiMAX is definitely the future. It combines the best of both wired and wireless worlds – the bandwidth of wired networks and the reach of wireless networks."

“Imagine being able to run an entire enterprise of 20 employees from a single wireless broadband connection, all voice, Internet and data needs met. You can, with WiMAX.”

Allegro is already committed to building its own network, having recently invested a seven figure sum on the purchase of spectrum in the south-east corner. The spectrum covers from the Gold Coast in the south to the Sunshine Coasts, Brisbane and the growth corridors between, and west out past Ipswich.

“Now that we have acquired the spectrum, we’re in the planning phase,” Waldie said. “ The SEQ connect initiative, if successful, will allow us to leverage our licence and proven telco capability to extend the WiMAX network into areas that would otherwise not be serviced.”

“It is a very exciting initiative for businesses and residents in south east Queensland. We commend the Council of Mayors for their vision in selecting WiMAX as a key technical platform their ConnectSEQ solution. ”

**For further information
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