RAD
data communications

Press Release

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RAD Unveils Unique Enhancements for Maximizing Cellular Backhaul Traffic over Satellite Links

Vmux-400 Reduces Costs for 2.5 and 3G Networks and is Particularly Suitable for Applications over IP Networks

RAD Data Communications has announced that at GSM Africa 2005, to be held November 30-December 1 in Cape Town, it will unveil several unique solutions for reducing carrier expenses by maximizing cellular backhaul traffic over expensive satellite links.

"In many areas of the world, the rapid growth of voice and data communications usage has outpaced the deployment of network infrastructures," states Gaby Junowicz, Business Development Director at RAD Data Communications. "This is especially true in Africa, where for reasons of geography, history and topography, the laying of copper or fiber landlines has been slow and in many cases, prohibitively expensive," he adds. "To overcome this situation, many local carriers and enterprises in Africa resort to satellite links for their communications transport needs."

Satellite networks are an effective way to quickly open reliable lines of communications over great distances, but satellite time is expensive. It is also billed according to the quantity of bandwidth consumed, so cellular operators that have opted for such satellite resources are under ceaseless pressure to implement whatever measures are available to maximize bandwidth efficiencies. The cellular backhaul links utilize A-bis and A-ter protocols, which incorporate compressed voice. Additional compression to further minimize bandwidth, therefore, is not a viable option. "Cellular operators are looking for a solution that maximizes the amount of voice traffic that can be transported over the available satellite bandwidth, yet still support the necessary features to preserve high voice quality and associated signaling," Junowicz explains.

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Field-Proven Experience in Africa
"RAD's Vmux-400 A-bis and A-ter Optimization Gateway is the ideal product solution," notes Toby Korall, Senior Product Line Manager at RAD. "Having been successfully deployed in several applications in Africa and interoperable with equipment from other major vendors, the Vmux-400 ensures that satellite links are utilized as efficiently as possible by eliminating inefficiencies by not transmitting idle and silent frames," he continues. "In this way, the Vmux-400 can reduce satellite bandwidth by 50 percent and more, enabling satellite service providers to offer their customers a more attractive complete solution."

Product functions, moreover, have been tested in various codec environments, including HR (half rate), FR (full rate), EFR (enhanced full rate), and AMR (adaptive multiple rates) – the codec used in 3G cellular applications. The Vmux-400, in fact, features a number of unique enhancements that make it ideal for cellular operators bridging both 2.5G GSM/GPRS and 3G EDGE environments. It supports, for example, both A-bis and A-ter protocols, and offers a unique, cost-cutting solution for supporting both GPRS and EDGE data traffic over multiple timeslots. The product is exceptionally suitability for cellular applications over IP networks. "Since cellular networks are synchronic, clock regeneration over asynchronous IP transport networks represents a challenge," Korall concludes. "RAD, however, has solved this problem with advanced clock recovery algorithms that have been implemented in the Vmux-400."

About RAD
Established in 1981, privately owned RAD Data Communications has achieved international recognition as a major manufacturer of high quality access equipment for data communications and telecommunications applications. These solutions serve the data and voice access requirements of service providers, incumbent and new carriers, and enterprise networks, by reducing infrastructure investment costs while boosting competitiveness and profitability. The company's installed base exceeds 9,000,000 units and includes more than 150 carriers and operators around the world. These customers are supported by 23 RAD offices and more than 200 distributors in 105 countries.

RAD is a member of the RAD Group of companies, a world leader in networking and internetworking product solutions.

RAD Data Communications site: www.rad.com

Press Contact
Bob Eliaz, Media Relations Manager, RAD Data Communications
Tel: +972-3-6458134
Fax: +972-3-6498250
E-mail: bob@rad.com