

Newsletter August 2003

Ascom enables Powerline Communications in UK

Ascom Powerline will provide around 1'000 modems with its related infrastructure units till September 2003 for the integration of Powerline Communication Services in the city of Winchester.

Winchester will be the first city in England and Wales that offers Powerline broadband Internet to its customers through a full-scale commercial trial allowing householders and businesses to connect to the Internet through three-pin electrical sockets.

After a successful trial phase in the towns of Campbeltown and Crieff in Scotland with SSE Telecom the decision has been taken to go for a first pilot phase in the south of England with Winchester. An impressive advantage for the inhabitants of Winchester is due to the fact that broadband communications are at speeds up to 20 times faster than dial-up connections and up to twice as fast as current ADSL services will be provided.

SSE Telecom's Director ,Dr Keith Maclean, said: "What makes our broadband service so unusual is not only that it's far faster for browsing the Internet, but that it's actually delivered through electrical sockets rather than telephone lines. There are a lot of technologies available which make downloading files very quick, but when it comes to surfing the net, some broadband is narrower than you might think.

"Broadband with Powerline Technology is one of the fastest possible way of browsing the Internet open to normal users."



Councillor John Steel, The Mayor of Winchester, who was present at the official announcement, said: "I am delighted that Winchester has been chosen as the first city to get this new technology. I am sure that it will be a great boost to local businesses and keep Winchester at the cutting edge of new technology."

Winchester City Council is a founding partner of Broadband Wessex, an initiative to promote Broadband as a stimulus to new business activity, particularly in the creative, media and communications industries.

As well as speeding up Internet access for leisure use, it's predicted that the new service will prove to be a boon for local businesses. Keith Maclean added: "Small businesses and people who work from home will benefit enormously from high-speed Internet access.

It allows high-speed Internet browsing and is perfect for sending and receiving large files. In fact, compared to 'traditional' broadband, the new service is much quicker for sending large files by e-mail. And the fact that it's delivered through electrical sockets means it keeps the phone line free so there are no missed calls."

Berne, 26th August 2003