

Pipeline

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www.pipelinepub.com Volume 4, Issue 2

OSS Newswatch for July

by Alana Greylak

Plenty of exciting things happened in the telecom world between mid-May and mid-June. We've got several news releases that came from Telemangement World in Nice, amongst plenty of other tidbits that we found newsworthy. Here's the news for your July issue of Pipeline.

Axiom Systems took an opportunity in Nice, France to announce their launch of AXIOSS® Active Catalog, "the industry's first solution to enable CSP's to adopt a closed-loop approach to service fulfilment." The new product works along with the V6 version of the AXIOSS product suite. Axiom says that Active Catalogue "provides an end-to-end solution for the rapid introduction and management of complex and bundled services."

Clarity, an OSS business process automation company, has signed an agreement with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to enable TCS to "resell Clarity's Next Generation OSS to customers worldwide." The agreement also includes provisions for lab implementation of Clarity's licences, skills development of Clarity software, and a joint marketing effort.

T-Online France has chosen Comptel Corporation's Provisioning and Activation solution to aid in the fulfilment of T-Online's triple-play services. T-Online France offers internet services under the name "Club Internet," and felt that they needed to replace their existing solutions in order to keep up with the growth of their triple-play services.

In other Comptel news, Comptel Corporation has announced the Comptel Inventory mediator, "a new dynamic way of collecting information about the network to improve the accuracy of the data held in a network inventory."

Sigma Systems has announced the release of Service Management Platform 4.0 (SMP), an upgrade of its previous service management platform. SMP 4.0 provides "a new high performance J2EE-based, BPEL-compatible workflow engine that addresses today's new demands as well as providing the inherent flexibility to support any type of service..." Sigma plans to make SMP 4.0 generally available in the third quarter of 2007.

Also in Sigma news, Canadian telecommunications carrier Telus has completed its deployment of Sigma's OSS service management solution for wireless voice and data services. Telus will be integrating SMP, the Sigma Service Topology Manager, the Sigma Service Creation Toolkit, and the Sigma Service Profile Manager.

A new report by Aberdeen Group shows that telecom organizations that order and inventory their software before major network transitions are more likely to succeed. Joe Basili, Aberdeen Group's Research Director, said that "Our survey found that 60 percent of organizations should have performed a better assessment before undertaking their network transition. Only 21 percent of laggards completed network transitions on time, or ahead of plan compared to 100 percent of Best-in-Class organizations."

In the billing solutions arena, Comptel has announced that it is launching Comptel Interconnect Billing Solution "to help service providers settle charges with other service providers for using each other's networks and services." It provides "open interfaces, including a web-based easy-to-use GUI, and XML-based interfaces to other systems..." Finish service provider AinaCom has already launched the Interconnect Billing Solution for its international and domestic service offering.

In the world of mergers, Aepona and Appium have combined to meet the needs of the growing market for service delivery platforms. The new company will operate under Aepona's name and existing Universal Service Platform banner.

Sprint Nextel is acquiring Northern PCS at a total cost of \$312.5 million, and while it's still awaiting regulatory approval, the sale should be completed in the third quarter of 2007.

Alltel has announced that it is being acquired by two private equity firms. The total deal will be worth \$27.5 billion, \$24.8 billion for the company itself and \$2.7 billion in debts.

Due to population swells, telecom providers in Alberta, Canada have implemented a 10-digit dialing system in the 403 and 780 area codes, similar to the one that is being implemented in British Columbia. As of September 12, 2008, Alberta customers will have to dial area codes on even local calls.

Sony Ericsson has recently filed a U.S. patent application for a mobile device that will be able to handle video gaming. However, Sony Ericsson still denies that it is about the launch a mobile device/cell phone based on the Sony PlayStation Portable handheld gaming console.

Users of Alltel cellular data phones are now privy to accessing Sprint Nextel's EV-DO Broadband Network per a new roaming agreement. Alltel's customers who have Alltel laptop cards will now be able to wirelessly access the web in major U.S. cities.

Verizon Wireless is again in a law suit, this time against I-VEST Global Corporation, which allegedly sent over 12-million text messages to Verizon customers. While most were caught by Verizon's spam filters, about 5,000 messages made it through.

Cincinnati Bell has launched a new service that turns voicemail messages into SMS texts. Powered by SpinVox, the service starts at \$4.99 per month and will work with any SMS-capable phone.

In still more SMS news, AT&T Wireless is launching a new service that will allow American's to send SMS messages to other mobile phones overseas for approximately \$.10 each.

The Apple iPhone finally has a launch date of June 29 of 2007. The phone will be marketed at the price of \$499-599 and will be sold exclusively at AT&T Wireless stores. A study by Strategy Analytics shows that over 90% of United States mobile phone users feel that the iPhone will most certainly be better than the device they are currently using. Verizon Wireless, who turned down an exclusive plan to carry the iPhone, says that it will be launching a direct competitor to the iPhone that will be announced sometime in the late summer.

Richard Notebaert, the CEO of Qwest Communications, has announced his plans to retire as soon as his replacement has been found. Qwest says that the change in CEO does not mean any major operational changes for the company.

VeriSign has announced that Stratton Scavos, is stepping down from his positions as Chief Executive. He will be replaced by William Roper as the CEO and Edward Mueller as Chairmen, both of whom are board members.

If you have news you'd like to share with Pipeline, contact us at editor@pipelinepub.com.