



NEWS RELEASE

DSL FORUM ACCLAIMS MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA BROADBAND GROWING FASTER THAN ANY REGION IN THE WORLD

Region increases number of broadband subscribers by 38% in 2006

Arabcom, Dubai, 11 April 2007 – during the DSL Forum's first visit to the Middle East, Robin Mersh, the DSL Forum Chief Operating Officer, applauded the strong growth of broadband in the region during his keynote address at Arabcom. Citing analyst Point Topic's published figures that confirm that the number of broadband subscribers in Middle East and Africa grew by 38% in 2006, while the number of those subscribers using DSL access technology grew by 81.9% to 4.3million.

Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Lebanon have the highest broadband penetration, with almost half the households in Qatar having broadband access, 28.87% in the United Arab Emirates and 22.5% in Lebanon. Turkey has the most DSL subscribers in the region and almost doubled the number in 2006 to 2.9million. Tunisia, Egypt and Qatar all increased the number of subscribers in their respective countries by over 100%, while in the United Arab Emirates, DSL subscribers grew by 63.45% to 207,080.

“The rapidly emerging markets in the Middle East are a testimony to how global standards are improving speed to market,” said Mersh. “DSL access technology is by far the most popular access technology, accounting for almost 88% of broadband subscribers in the Middle East. New applications, such as supporting IPTV offerings to customers and DSL used for mobile backhaul for cellular providers, are only going to fuel this growth further.

“We are pleased to be here at Arabcom to continue educating the market about the latest in DSL Forum architecture and management specifications, to ensure that

service providers here have the tools they need to build out superior networks, well capable of delivering all the multimedia applications they envision.”

Visitors to the DSL Forum booth (A1) will be able to meet with Forum representatives and learn more about their work.

Ends

To meet with the DSL Forum at Arabcom or for more information, please contact Louise Hatton, Helen Lyman Smith or Natalie Saville on +44 (0)115 948 6901 or email louise@bcspr.co.uk.

NOTES TO EDITORS

DSL subscriber growth in the Middle East and Africa Q4 2005 to Q4 2006

Total DSL subscribers, Q4 2005	Total DSL subscribers, Q4 2006	% growth in 2006
2,367,882	4,308,527	81.9%

Source: Data prepared for the DSL Forum by Point Topic

Individual country DSL subscriber growth in the Middle East and Africa Q4 2005 to Q4 2006

Country	Total DSL subscribers, Q4 2005	Total DSL subscribers, Q4 2006	% DSL subscriber growth in 2006
Turkey	1,541,977	2,935,900	90.40%
Morocco	242,000	393,300	62.52%
United Arab Emirates	126,693	207,080	63.45%
Egypt	91,000	205,182	125.47%
South Africa	116,000	203,700	75.60%
Saudi Arabia	55,000	74,000	34.55%
Tunisia	29,000	71,000	144.83%
Qatar	24,647	50,000	102.86%
Jordan	27,600	38,600	39.86%
Kuwait	30,600	30,600	0.00%
Algeria	25,400	25,400	0.00%
Senegal	18,000	18,000	0.00%

Bahrain	15,600	16,500	5.77%
Mauritius	8,300	16,200	95.18%
Syria	7,000	11,000	57.14%
Palestine	7,665	7,665	0.00%
Sudan	-	3,000	-
Yemen	1,400	1,400	0.00%

Source: Data prepared for the DSL Forum by Point Topic

About the DSL Forum

The DSL Forum tailors broadband to meet the needs of the next generation of multi-media services and the online community. By forging agreements on common technical requirements and embracing new applications, the Forum works to streamline processes, define specifications, and share best practices that set the stage for effective deployments and explosive global DSL growth. Established in 1994, the DSL Forum is an international industry consortium of over 200 leading service providers, equipment manufacturers and other interested parties. Please visit www.dslforum.org for more information.