

Thursday 27th January 2006

PRESS RELEASE
(Internal Use Only)

Bahrain's national operator Batelco deploys Marconi's long haul STM-64 technology

Batelco, the largest operator in Kingdom of Bahrain to provide fixed, mobile and data services, will upgrade its link to Saudi Arabia using Marconi's long haul STM-64 technology, MSH64c. WWW.NETWORKS was responsible for introducing Batelco to the benefits of the Marconi MSH64c.

The Marconi's MSH64c add/drop multiplex is a very compact device that offers operators a high degree of flexibility. Its redundant transfer mechanisms make the Marconi MSH64c a reliable and transparent platform for Batelco's long haul application.

"The MSH64c has a longer reach and a much higher rate at STM-64 (10Gbps) than any of the existing equipment operational in the Batelco network" said Mr. Yousif Ameen, country manager of Bahrain for WWW.NETWORKS FZCo. "The new MSH64c is capable of reaching up to 80Km with its advanced booster technology and with a switching matrix up to 512 STM-1 equivalents."

Marconi's ServiceOn network management system will manage the platform, with WWW.NETWORKS providing installation and commissioning services to Batelco.

The equipment is planned to be installed before the end of March 2006 and will meet the increased bandwidth demands on Batelco's backhaul network to the Saudi border. Batelco is a long standing customer of WWW.NETWORKS and the network includes a wide range of Marconi products supplied and supported by WWW.NETWORKS including MSH91, MSH80, MSH51c, MSH41c, MSH11c, SMA1/4cp and soon to be deployed OMS1664 multiservice provisioning platform.

Notes

About MSH64-C

MSH64c offers an overall capacity of 80 Gbps. Among others, its extremely compact footprint contains units for STM-16 (2.5 Gbps) and STM-64 (9.9 Gbps) transmission, as well as Gigabit Ethernet equipment, thus supporting transport and aggregation of data services such as Internet Protocol (IP) and provision of transparent transfer services. Its switching array supports Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) transfer and Optical Transport Networks (OTN). Competing solutions can only provide a similar scope of functionalities by using separate systems causing a substantial increase in capex and opex.