

**Comms Day : 28 July 2011**

## **Nextgen completes 100Gbps trial in Broken Hill**

Nextgen Networks has completed a trial for 100Gbps wavelength services in Broken Hill as part of a site inspection for the federal government's A\$250 million Regional Backbone Blackspots Program. The firm leveraged Alcatel-Lucent's converged optical and IP technologies in conducting what Nextgen MD Phil Sykes hailed as "the first 100Gbps trial successfully conducted in regional Australia."

"The trial demonstrates that the RBBP network is built for purpose and can successfully carry nextgeneration IP and optical services on the platform," he said. The RBBP Broken Hill route encompasses some 1,150 kilometres of new fibre optic build from Gawler in South Australia to Shepparton in Victoria. Nextgen will provide backbone services on this route later in 2011 to ultimately reach around 137,000 regional consumers via more than 30 wholesale access points.

Sykes said the technology system used was capable of 44x100Gbps services or 4.4 terabits of capacity, which he described as "a significant increase on what currently exists and [it also] future proofs the network."

"Today's 100Gbps test is significant as Broken Hill is a critical site for satellite earth stations in Australia and the successful testing demonstrates the leading edge capabilities of this network," he added.

Nextgen's announcement was made on the same day as the Australian Parliament's joint NBN committee hit town for a public hearing. Committee members heard representations from the New South Wales and Northern Territory School of the Air and the Royal Flying Doctors' Service as well as other local organisations.

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