

## Media Release

Wednesday 27 July 2011

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### **Regional Backbone Blackspots Program 100Gbps Services Successfully Tested in Broken Hill**

As part of its commitment to delivering world class backbone transmission services through the Australian Government's \$250 million Regional Backbone Blackspots Program ('RBBP'), Nextgen Networks ('Nextgen') has successfully completed a trial for 100Gbps wavelength services on a portion of its Broken Hill route.

The trial was demonstrated before members of the Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network, chaired by Rob Oakeshott MP, as part of a site inspection of RBBP facilities today.

Phil Sykes, the Managing Director of Nextgen Networks said, "We understand this is the first 100Gbps trial successfully conducted in Regional Australia and demonstrates that communities serviced by high capacity backbone infrastructure are set to benefit from Australia's emerging NBN environment."

The RBBP Broken Hill route extends from Gawler in South Australia through to Shepparton in Victoria and encompasses around 1,150 kilometres of new fibre optic build. Backbone services on this route will be provided by Nextgen later in 2011 with the route having been designed to ultimately benefit approximately 137,000 regional consumers through more than 30 wholesale access points.

"The trial demonstrates that the RBBP network is built for purpose and can successfully carry next generation IP and optical services on the platform", Mr Sykes said.

As its key technology partner to the RBBP initiative, Nextgen welcomed the involvement of the globally leading fibre optic vendor Alcatel Lucent.

Andrew Butterworth, Alcatel-Lucent Australia Managing Director said, "Alcatel-Lucent has worked with Nextgen for the past decade, bringing to bear our generations of experience in Australia's telecommunications infrastructure and global innovation expertise to keep Nextgen ahead of demand."

"By taking advantage of Alcatel-Lucent's unique combination of innovations in optical and IP technologies, Nextgen is positioning strongly to cost-effectively manage future growth in broadband services and applications," Mr Butterworth said.

The demonstration leveraged Alcatel-Lucent's unique converged optical and IP technologies, which is capable of transferring over 100,000 mp3 files in 60 seconds or the live streaming of over 15,000 HDTV channels concurrently.

"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. The technology system that we're demonstrating on this leg of the RBBP is capable

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of 44x100Gbps services or 4.4 Terabits of capacity, which is a significant increase on what currently exists and future proofs the network”, Mr Sykes said

“Nextgen is very pleased to be able to host the Joint Committee today at the Broken Hill Exchange and present the technological capabilities of this regional backbone network to its members”, said Mr Sykes.

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### **About Nextgen Networks:**

Nextgen owns and operates the second largest long haul optical fibre network in Australia with established fibre routes from Brisbane to Perth. It is a specialist transmission services provider to telecommunication carriers and service providers, corporations and government. It does not sell services to consumer or residential customers.

Nextgen is wholly owned by Australia's largest project development and contracting group, Leighton Holdings Limited.

### **About Leighton Telecommunications**

Leighton Telecommunications is a key division of Leighton Contractors, comprising Visionstream, Nextgen Networks, Metronode, Infoplex and ASC International. Delivering high level telecommunication infrastructure and superior network solutions in challenging environments, Leighton Telecommunications offers total service solutions for carriers, government, channel partners and enterprise industry segments through multiple technologies.