

Geraldton gets high-speed fibre link

Mitchell Binghamann | From: Australian IT | March 11, 2011 2:41PM

NEXTGEN Networks has flicked the switch on the first leg of the government's \$250 million Regional Backbone Blackspot Program allowing internet providers in Geraldton a new avenue to offer services to broadband customers.

A 426km fibre link has been completed between Perth and the Western Australian town of Geraldton as part of the 6000km long fibre backhaul network being built by Nextgen Networks to fulfil a government initiative to bring internet services to areas where Telstra is usually the only choice of broadband supplier.

“We believe that the RBBP network offers an historic opportunity for service providers to compete in regional markets with an expanded portfolio of services, offering more choice and value to end users,” Nextgen managing director Phil Sykes said in a statement.

NEC Australia's wholesale subsidiary Nextep and national broadband provider iiNet have already jumped onto the new link. iiNet said it has begun migrating over 2000 homes in Geraldton to the new link while Nextep has installed DSLAM equipment in four exchanges on the route.

Nextep said it is now on target to begin offering ADSL2+ and SHDSL services to customers in the other RBBP areas of Victor Harbour, South Australia by March 2011 and Southwest Gippsland, Victoria by April 2011.

It's expected that about 35,000 residential and business premises in the Geraldton region will be able to access the network for fixed and wireless broadband access.