



## PORT NETWORKS

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## FAST FIBER LINK OFFERS MORE SPEED TO PORT NETWORKS CUSTOMERS

**Baltimore, MD – April 20, 2006** – Wi-Fi users in Baltimore can now move data at the speed of light, thanks to a new partnership between two local companies, wireless network operator Port Networks and metro ethernet provider Litecast/Balticore

Under a new agreement, Port Networks recently began to use a fiber optic feed from Litecast/Balticore as its primary connection to the Internet. Previously, the company had relied on a combination of wireless and multiplexed circuits to supply its customers with bandwidth. These original links will now be relegated to the role of understudies, ready to step in should they ever be required.

“As we’ve grown, we’ve continuously upgraded our links to the Internet,” says Hugh Bethell, General Manager at Port Networks. “But putting the network on fiber is still a big step forward. Our partnership with Litecast/Balticore/ offers us more bandwidth, with better performance, and at a very attractive price.”

Fiber optic technology uses pulses of light to carry data traffic over long strands of glass or plastic, at speeds unmatched by copper wires. These links also offer much greater capacity, carrying hundreds of megabytes per second across the network.

“We’re committed to delivering the advantages of fiber to customers throughout the Baltimore region,” says Litecast/Balticore Sales Manager Gary Kimmel. “We want to help drive growth in the city, so it’s a pleasure to enter into a partnership with another local company.”

Port Networks will not be raising the price of any of its services to offset the cost of its new bandwidth, but is instead investing in extra capacity to fuel further growth. The company is currently racing to meet demand from both business and residential customers, and expects traffic from its many marina locations to spike soon as the boating season begins anew.

The Litecast/Balticore network is unique in that it utilizes a private fiber network, instead of moving traffic over fiber owned and operated by the regional telephone company. This gives the company greater control over the operation of its network. Because the network is used solely for data, the company has been able to optimize its network expressly for Internet users.

(MORE)

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## **FAST FIBER LINK OFFERS MORE SPEED TO PORT NETWORKS CUSTOMERS, CONT.**

Because Litecast/Balticore uses a ring configuration, data can travel simultaneously in both directions around the network. This means that if there is a break anywhere in the network, customers won't lose service -- the network heals itself. The data simply re-routes around the ring to reach its destination.

Port Networks will connect to Litecast/Balticore from its headquarters in the World Trade Center building on East Pratt Street. From there, Port Networks will connect to customers using its existing wireless infrastructure, which serves most of Baltimore City.

### **About Port Networks**

Port Networks is a privately-held wireless Internet service provider located in Baltimore, MD. The company uses wireless technologies to deliver Internet, telephone, and television services to residential and commercial customers, and operates Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the city. The company was founded in 2003 and currently serves more than 500 customers.

### **About Litecast/Balticore**

Litecast/Balticore is a "dark" fiber metropolitan infrastructure provider dedicated to providing fiber connectivity to all segments of Baltimore's business community at an affordable and fixed cost. To achieve this goal, Litecast/Balticore has designed, constructed, and currently leases a high-capacity, high-bandwidth dark fiber-optic network constructed on full-spectrum fiber -- the "Litecast/Balticore Network". With the strategic placement of over 1300 redundant fiber miles within the City, customers are instantly able to connect to Baltimore's most important points of communications presence. Litecast/Balticore also sells and services a high speed Ethernet Internet offering to businesses in the Baltimore area.

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