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BigAir and Star-Tech expand their broadband offerings for university students to 6 Australian sites

Scholars at Victoria University are now hooked up with high-speed Internet access using BigAir's WiMAX infrastructure and Star-Tech's managed broadband ISP systems

SYDNEY, Australia – September 16, 2008 – Since announcing the connection of students at three of Australia's leading university residential facilities in 2007, the team from BigAir and Star-Tech Communications have just connected up students at Victoria University's Student Village and Sunbury Hall residential facilities. Four more university villages in three states are confirmed so far to be connected before the start of semester 1 2009, adding another 1,600 rooms. Another 1,000 room site has also already been confirmed for 2010. As a direct result the students are benefiting from hassle free high-speed internet access available to them on demand and without the need to purchase a phone line or sign on to long-term contracts.

Thanks to Star-Tech's instant on-line solutions, customers do not have to worry about any paperwork, connection fees or termination fees, and nor do they need to buy any hardware. Site stakeholders benefit from a worry free fully outsourced product.

"I'm really happy with the new internet service here at Victoria University's Student Village. The in-room system and the WiFi are great, easy to set up, and really fast. This will assist immensely with my studies and improve my leisure time activities". According to John, a second year Business and Law student at VU.

Enabling students to accelerate their learning with online collaboration, conferencing, and research, BigAir's superior high speed broadband supply, capable of speeds up to 100Mbps, was already operational through Star-Tech at Macquarie University Village in Sydney, RMIT Village Old Melbourne and Griffith University Village on the Queensland Gold Coast as well as Graduate House at the University of Melbourne. Star-Tech also supplies to a staff/academics residential townhouse facility at Seddon in suburban Melbourne, for Victoria University.

Christopher Plunkett, Manager Student Operations Group, Department of Student Services at Victoria University said: "The Student Village was a complex installation, made more difficult through limited legacy cabling and heritage listed architecture. The broadband and VOIP service installation was well planned and commissioned without a hitch, and take up is already excellent. BigAir and Star-Tech's processes are professionally managed and Victoria University's residential students are already benefitting from this quality installation".

Star-Tech's Division General Manager, Jean Morel said that BigAir helped at both Victoria University sites and was able to deliver high speed backhaul where

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traditional suppliers were unable to supply sufficient bandwidth to accommodate the students thirst for Internet content on viable terms.

"Since BigAir has a carrier-grade wireless broadband network, they were able to install the high-speed broadband connection within just a few days – beating other suppliers hands down on speed, service and pricing. Our customers consume several Terabytes of data a week at our larger sites like the Student Village at Maribyrnong, and BigAir delivers this with no problems at all."

"If it wasn't for BigAir, the students at both these sites would still be waiting for their internet connection" Mr Morel added.

To date, nearly 3,000 student rooms are benefiting from the combination of BigAir's reliable wholesale symmetric broadband and Star-Tech's automated in-building distribution, on-line subscription and billing, and help desk services. Star-Tech engineers its secure triple-play capable solutions using a complex combination of proven reliable technologies in order to deliver into often difficult campus environments. Together they offer students instant unlimited pre-paid and post-paid Internet access packages which facilitate online learning and enhanced research capabilities. All of the university villages serviced are also Wi-Fi enabled.

BigAir CEO, Jason Ashton said that high-speed broadband access was crucial for students in today's learning environment.

"Whether students need to be more involved in online learning, use video conferencing to collaborate with other students, lecturers, universities or even tap into international experts to help them excel, reliable high speed broadband is the only way forward."

"BigAir is pleased to be a provider of broadband services to these students. It's rewarding to be in a position where we can help these students get ahead. They could be on the verge of unveiling tomorrow's cure for cancer or even the next wireless technology breakthrough!" Mr Ashton added.

Star-Tech Communications offers a complete range of telecommunications engineering services to provide customers with the best solution to meet their requirements. Working with BigAir, the company will continue expanding its portfolio in the education sector and plans to work with the mining, retirement village, residential construction, and hospitality industries to provide high-speed managed broadband to residents and business travelers among others.

About BigAir Group Limited

BigAir owns and operates Australia's largest metropolitan fixed WiMAX* broadband network.

The Australian business market comprises nearly one million businesses and BigAir's network provides near blanket coverage across its three largest cities Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane. BigAir sells broadband and data services directly to business customers and also partners with other IT service companies who have existing relationships with business customers in order to deliver BigAir's high speed, cost effective WiMAX* broadband solutions.

BigAir's competitive advantage includes its state-of-the-art WiMAX* network which allows it to install business-grade symmetric broadband services at speeds up to 100Mbps and

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distances up to 30km from its base stations with installation taking just a few hours. Most of BigAir's competitor's rely on access to Telstra's copper network which can take many weeks to install a service and does not deliver fast symmetric speeds. Competing legacy wireless networks such as the 3G mobile phone networks are also not nearly fast enough to meet the demands of business Internet users in an office environment.

*802.16-2004 compliant or 802.16d; WiMAX™, and WiMAX Forum™ are trademarks of the WiMAX Forum

About Star-Tech Communications

Established in 1990, Unistar Enterprises Pty Ltd trading as Star-Tech Communications is a leading provider of wireless network solutions (specialising in WLANs, WWANs, Point to Point/Multipoint/Mesh wireless links), wireless surveillance, and network design. Star-Tech Communications has provided intelligent communications solutions to a broad range of clients across many sectors, and is a Government endorsed supplier and Cisco Select partner. Star-Tech's vast range of solutions includes wireless connectivity of up to 1.25Gbps microwave systems (both licensed and class licensed) for transmission of voice, data and video communications.

A registered ISP and TIO scheme member, Star-Tech supplies instant, paperless MDU broadband distribution solutions and pay TV and VOIP services for student residences, using Ethernet, VDSL, and especially wireless technologies.

With its own wireless, cabling, and IP engineers in-house, Star-Tech has built a network supported by its own back end, hosted in a AAA rated level 1 telco facility. Star-Tech's network is monitored 24x7 and its dual Radius systems are mirrored and backed up in real time. Star-Tech has its own flexible billing system, credit card billing gateways, ticketing system and access gateways, assembled to suit its demanding standards. In the field, Star-Tech has its own engineers to ensure that nothing is left to chance.

For more information please visit our website at www.startech.com.au

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