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MEDIA RELEASE
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Basslink Telecoms open for business – nearing completion of first commercial contracts

Michael Coates appointed GM Telecoms at Basslink

Today marks Day One for the newest player in the Australian wholesale telecommunications and broadband market – Basslink Telecoms Pty Ltd.

This follows Monday's announcement that Basslink has struck a deal with Aurora Energy and the Tasmanian Government to extend the Basslink network across Tasmania, enabling for the first time the delivery of nationally competitive telecommunications services between the Australian mainland and Tasmania.

Under the agreement, Basslink will be selling high capacity network connectivity across Bass Strait from Victoria to Tasmania and onward to Hobart, creating a competitive market for high speed broadband services and high quality business connectivity on its carrier-grade infrastructure.

Malcolm Eccles, CEO of Basslink, today welcomed the entry of Basslink into the telecommunications industry.

"Through our arrangements with Aurora in Tasmania, and our partners on the mainland, Basslink can provide end-to-end broadband capacity to those looking to wholesale or retail broadband services in the Victorian and Tasmanian markets, with direct connectivity between Melbourne and Hobart," said Mr Eccles.

"We are already in discussion with a number of interested broadband service providers, carriers and re-sellers, as well as organisations from outside the traditional telecommunications industry, in education, and in research and development. The feedback we are receiving is encouraging.

"We are hopeful that, through Basslink Telecoms, there will be new service providers entering and expanding the Tasmanian market, benefiting business and retail consumers of broadband, mobile networks, and other telecommunications services in the State.

"In turn, we expect that our investment in the network will enable our customers and partners to increase their investment in their Tasmanian businesses. As one example, Tasmania is a great location for a corporate disaster-recovery centre.

"The advantage of dealing with Basslink is that as 100 per cent owner of the fibre optic cables across the Bass Strait, we have the greatest flexibility in tailoring a proposition that works best for each business or service provider."

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Mr Eccles also welcomed Michael Coates as General Manager of Basslink Telecoms Pty Ltd.

Michael Coates joins Basslink Telecoms Pty Ltd having previously worked with NextGen. He has also held positions with Silk Telecom and Telecom New Zealand, working on the Southern Cross Cable project.

“We welcome Michael Coates to the team at a very exciting time.”

Basslink has a detailed implementation program to roll out over the next few months. Commercial services are expected to commence in early 2009. Basslink will be making further announcements to keep the market updated on our progress and official launch date.

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