



PORT NETWORKS

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HURRICANE ISABEL FORCES TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF PORT NETWORKS WI-FI SERVICE

Baltimore, MD – September 19, 2003 – In the wake of Hurricane Isabel, Port Networks today announced that electrical problems at the World Trade Center of Baltimore would force a temporary suspension of Port Networks Wi-Fi service.

“All of our radio equipment and antenna systems are engineered for a 120 m.p.h. wind load, and made it through the storm in fine condition,” said Hugh Bethell, Port Networks General Manager, “but the storm surge from early this morning caused so much damage to the infrastructure of our building that we don’t anticipate being able to restore service until late next week.”

As Hurricane Isabel passed to the west of Baltimore on Thursday night, a combination of easterly winds, torrential rain, and a rising tide led to a water level seven feet above normal, the highest ever recorded on the city’s waterfront. The surge caused widespread flooding in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor, which was closed to traffic through the following day.

At the World Trade Center, flooding in the building’s basement destroyed several transformers and telephone switches, leaving the building without electrical or telephone service. Representatives from the Maryland Port Administration, which operates the building, estimated it would be at least five days before service was restored to the building.

As the hub of commercial trade for the Port of Baltimore, the World Trade Center serves a wide variety of tenants, including shipping agents, law firms, and technology companies. The unique, pentagonal skyscraper was constructed in 1976 and has been a landmark of the Baltimore skyline ever since.

Over the weekend, Port Networks personnel will be transferring the company’s website and email systems to a backup location. However, because the company’s antennas and transmitters are located atop the World Trade Center building, it will not be able to offer Wi-Fi service in the region until power is restored at the facility.

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