



PORT NETWORKS

PRESS RELEASE

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PORT NETWORKS SIGNS DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT WITH DISH NETWORK

Baltimore, MD – December 29, 2004 – Local wireless network operator Port Networks now offers residential and business customers a complete escape from the tyranny of the local cable company, thanks to a new distribution agreement that allows it to bundle Dish Networks' 500-channel direct-broadcast-satellite television service with its own wireless data and telephone services.

DISH Network provides access to hundreds of popular, all-digital television channels, including movies, sports, news, international and children's programming. DISH Network also features several high-definition programming channels, as well as commercial-free, CD-quality music channels.

"We're excited to enter into this partnership with Dish Network," says Hugh Bethell, General Manager of Port Networks. "Anyone who has sampled Dish Network programming knows that DBS offers more channels, better picture quality, and lower prices than cable TV. For our customers, who are eager to move away from cable-based services, this is the perfect solution."

Port Networks will offer all of the Dish Network programming packages, including America's Top 60, Top 120, Top 180, and Everything Pak for residential customers, and MaxView and Private Plus for commercial locations. Currently, Dish Network is offering new customers free activation with no programming commitment or equipment to buy, making it extremely easy for cable TV customers to make the switch to DBS.

Dish Network passed the 10 million customers mark last year, as its lower prices drew customers tired of the rising costs of cable television service. Consumer spending on cable service has increased 41 percent in the last five years, moving from an average of \$35.15 a month in 1998 to \$49.62 a month in 2003, a J.D. Power and Associates survey found. A recent Federal Communications Commission report found that cable prices have risen 53 percent in the past 10 years, more than double the increase in the Consumer Price Index over the same period.

Independent research also underscores consumer interest in bundling communications and entertainment services. Last year, 40 percent of consumers said they would like to purchase all of their communications services (local, long distance, broadband, wireless, and television) from a single company, according to a J.D. Power and Associates study.

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