PORT NETWORKS

PRESS RELEASE **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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PORT NETWORKS AIMS AT HIGH-END WI-FI USERS WITH MORE POWERFUL MARINE WIRELESS BRIDGE

Baltimore, MD – July 2, 2007 – A year after introducing its popular MWB-200, a portable marine wireless bridge that can be stowed while underway, Port Networks has introduced a permanently mounted cousin with even more signal strength. The company expects its new product, known as the MWB-250, to appeal to high-end recreational and commercial vessels seeking to maximize the performance of their Wi-Fi connections while in port.

Like the MWB-200, the MWB-250 is a standalone bridge that connects to Wi-Fi networks as a client, while simultaneously acting as a DHCP server supporting multiple computers connected to it. Unlike the MWB-200, which is portable and includes a rubber omnidirectional antenna, the MWB-250 comes in a rugged aluminum case designed for permanent mounting, and features an N-style coaxial connector through which a wide range of available antennas can be installed.

The MWB-250 is also twice as powerful as the MWB-200, offering 500mW of output power. This allows the MWB-250 to make stronger connections at greater distances, particularly when connected to a directional antenna. Because it supports the 802.11g standard, the MWB-250 can move data back and forth at up to 54 megabits per second.

"We designed the MWB-200 as a portable solution," says Hugh Bethell, the General Manager at Port Networks. "But we soon realized that many of our customers were permanently mounting them to a bulkhead and running cables out to an external antenna. With the MWB-250, we're offering a product specifically designed for that installation scenario."

Common Wi-Fi Problems

Typically, boat owners with a laptop computer on board try to make use of their computer's built-in Wi-Fi capability, but soon discover that they can't maintain a reliable connection. This is usually due to two common limitations of built-in Wi-Fi adapters: they transmit at low power (to preserve battery life) and they lack external antennas. Though they may work well when connecting to an access point in the same room, they rarely have the range to perform adequately in a marina.

Those with desktop computers or older laptops often add Wi-Fi to their systems through a USB adapter. While convenient and inexpensive, these products are also limited in range, because they draw their power from the limited current available through a computer's USB port.

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PORT NETWORKS AIMS AT HIGH-END WI-FI USERS WITH MORE POWERFUL MARINE WIRELESS BRIDGE, CONT.

The Port Networks Solution

Connecting a computer to the MWB-250 is as easy as plugging a standard network cable in between the Ethernet port on the computer and the Ethernet port on the power injector. The computer doesn't have to have its own Wi-Fi adapter, or any other special hardware. The Marine Wireless Bridge does all the work, delivering the Internet to the computer just as if the computer were plugged into the wall at an office.

The MWB-250 has several advantages over built-in Wi-Fi, USB adapters, and custom systems:

- 32x More Transmit Power. Because it incorporates a powerful transmitter and an above-deck antenna, the MWB-250 has far more range than most other Wi-Fi solutions.

- Advanced Networking Features. Unlike most Wi-Fi adapters, the Marine Wireless Bridge is a stand-alone device on the network, so it includes its own internal DHCP server and a Site Survey utility for detecting available wireless networks, and it supports advanced encryption, including WEP64, WEP128, 802.1x, WPA-TKIP, WPA2-AES & WPA-Mixed.

- High-Speed Data Transfer. The MWB-250 is compatible with both 802.11b and 802.11g access points, so it will work almost anywhere Wi-Fi is available, and it will deliver throughput of up to 54 megabits per second.

A Growing Market

In developing the MWB-250, Port Networks has aimed to serve the expanding ranks of cruisers, liveaboards, and other boat owners who carry one or more computers with them. As computer-based navigational systems have become more readily available, and wireless networks have allowed boat owners to send and receive email from ports around the world, many boat owners have come to regard an onboard computer as standard equipment.

According to the Boat Owners Association of the United States (BOATUS), more than 190,000 of their more than 600,000 members have bought marine related software specifically for use on their boats, and 565,000 of those members own and use computers.

Pricing & Availability

The MWB-250 is currently available at an introductory price of $449.00. That price includes the bridge and enclosure, power injector, configuration system, and 25-foot network cable. A 50-foot network cable is available for an additional $20, and custom cable assemblies can be ordered.

Port Networks will be selling its Marine Wireless Bridge directly to consumers through telephone and online sales. The company's website is located at http://store.portnetworks.com, and its toll-free sales number is 877-4PN-WIFI (877-476-9434).

About Port Networks

Port Networks is a privately-held wireless equipment developer and Internet service provider, located in Baltimore, MD. The company was founded in 2003 and serves customers in the marine, residential, and commercial markets.

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