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ROUNDUPS

For the record 19 December

Tuesday, December 19 2006

by **Sylvia Leatham**

*BiancaMed secures EUR2.5m investment | Gardai recruiting for telecoms experts*

The Department of Justice is planning to post adverts for 31 telecommunications technicians to support **An Garda Siochana** in its fight against organised crime. The Department said it also expects the Minister for Finance to approve a contract to supply the Gardai and other emergency services with a new digital radio system in the coming days. The announcements came as part of a package of crime-fighting measures announced by Justice Minister **Michael McDowell** on Tuesday.

Local loop unbundling (LLU) in Western Europe will extend to 28.6 million lines by 2010, according to a forecast from researchers at **Analysys**. They expect the number of unbundled local loops in Western Europe will grow from 10.9 million in June 2006 to 28.6 million by the end of 2010. "Local loop unbundling is one of the big successes of 2006 across Western Europe," said report co-author Martin Scott. "However, LLU could potentially become a victim of its own success. Exchanges are becoming overcrowded and, as incumbents begin to fight back with more competitive wholesale offers and cabinet-based DSL -- as in the Netherlands -- the balance of power may shift back to incumbents." The report predicts wholesale access products to third parties may continue to represent up to 18 percent of the DSL market, or 16.4 million lines (a decrease of only 7.9 percentage points from 2005), to 2010 if re-sold bitstream services were to become more attractive to operators.

Meanwhile, researchers at **Point Topic** said that while Eastern Europe was the region with highest broadband growth in the third quarter of 2006, Western European broadband growth is beginning to decelerate. Eastern Europe enjoyed a growth rate of 12.7 percent for the quarter, with the Middle East and Africa region coming in second place on a 11.9 percent growth rate. Other regions, such as Latin America, also performed well in the quarter, but Western Europe and South-East Asia were the only two regions to report a drop in growth rate during the period.

Medical technology start-up **BiancaMed**, which is based at NovaUCD, has secured EUR2.5 million in funding. BiancaMed is a developer of mobile and home-based health monitoring technologies and services. The company said the investment round was oversubscribed and was led by DFJ ePlanet Ventures, with participation from existing corporate investor ResMed.

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Search giant **Google** has released details of its "fastest-growing search queries" from Irish users for 2006. Google Ireland said it analysed millions of search queries to find the terms with the biggest increase in requests during the year. Top of the list was the term "World Cup 2006", followed by "Celebrity Love Island", "Prison Break" and the late Aussie crocodile hunter "Steve Irwin".

**Total Retail Control**, a partner of hardware distributor **PC Cubed**, announced the roll-out of the Microsoft Retail Management System at a new branch of McElwee Medical in Portlaoise. The system enables management at the McElwee pharmacy to receive stock reports; view information by department, supplier or buyer; and manage invoicing on a monthly basis.

Hot on the heels of the launch of its [mobile broadband service](#), **Three** has released its first handset to make use of the new high-speed connectivity, the MOTORAZR V3xx. The mobile operator claims the phone provides access to music, TV, video and photos at speeds ten times faster than 3G. The Motorola handset costs EUR279 on 3Pay or between EUR49 and EUR179 on contract.

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