

Kiwi PCS announces the launch of a high-capacity, Soft Switch platform

Kiwi PCS announces the launch of a high-capacity, Soft Switch platform at its Raleigh, North Carolina Central Office. The soft switch, which is produced by Garuda Networks of Fremont, California (www.garudanetworks.com), manages Long Distance and Advance Pay (Prepaid) services on a single platform while still allowing geographic segregation and flexibility in promotional LD offerings and incremental LD purchases.

"This completes another step in our ongoing program of keeping operating costs low while still offering new features and services to our customers", said Ghanshyam C. Patel, Chairman and CEO of ComScape Telecommunications, Inc., (ComScape markets under the name "Kiwi PCS"). "The Garuda Soft Switch has many features that make it an excellent compliment to our existing network. It is a powerful, high-capacity tool, yet it allows us the flexibility to handle the simple Kiwi offering of today and multiple, sophisticated offerings that we plan for tomorrow", Patel added. One of the compelling reasons for Kiwi's selection of the Garuda Soft Switch is its ability to dynamically decrement minutes and dollars on a real-time basis. "In this country, we are one of the few, if not the only wireless operator that has the ability to dynamically decrement minutes while simultaneously tracking the account balance of each subscriber", said Patel.

The Soft Switch directly connects with the Kiwi PCS CDMA Mobile Switching Center (MSC) and can interface with DS-1; DS-3; OC-3; SS-7 and perform Class IV & Class V functions. The high capacity architecture of its design allows it to handle multiple OC-3's. It is space efficient (it is contained in one rack) allowing for an office-friendly environment. It demands little power, is of a low maintenance design and requires little training. The system allows for real-time tracking of data and efficient billing on that data. It can also give a dynamic warning to the originator of a call and allow the subscriber to "re-fill the tank" of long distance minutes while maintaining the call.

Kiwi's decision to purchase the Garuda Soft Switch was simplified by the fact that it easily integrated with Kiwi's billing and OSS systems. "Because we wrote and operate our own, in-house billing system and Operational Service and Support (OSS) system, is one of the reasons we have one of the lowest, if not the lowest operating cost structure in the industry", Patel stated. "The workings of the Garuda Soft Switch is in line with our Company credo of economically controlling as many operational functions as possible without sacrificing network quality. This cost-controlling 'modus operandi' is what has allowed us to have virtually no debt, own our FCC licensing, own our network infrastructure and have a warehouse full of equipment 'free and clear' for our expansion," said Patel.

ComScape Telecommunications, Inc./Kiwi PCS is headquartered in West Palm Beach, Florida and is constructing a CDMA2000 1X wireless system in North Carolina with expansion into Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky. They now offer their Kiwi Free service in Wilmington, North Carolina. ComScape is privately-held and has virtually no debt. They are a facilities-based, fully integrated, telecommunications services company with switching centers in Raleigh, North Carolina and Charleston, West Virginia. In addition, they have a call center in West Palm Beach, Florida.

For more information, please contact:

Jeremiah P. Byrne ComScape Telecommunications, Inc.
ComScape Telecommunications, Inc. – Kiwi PCS
Telephone: 561-540-4763; E-mail: j.p.byrne@kiwipcs.com 1926
10th Avenue North, Suite 305

West Palm Beach, Florida 33461

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