



STUART WESTMORLAND

Google buys YouTube

GOOGLE BUYS YOUTUBE for USD 1.65 billion in stock, brushing aside copyright concerns to seize a starring role in the on-line video revolution.

The deal unites one of the internet's marquee companies with one of its rapidly rising stars. YouTube has announced three separate agreements with media companies to counter the threat of copyright-infringement lawsuits.

Google is betting that the popular

video-sharing site will provide it with an increasingly lucrative marketing hub as more viewers and advertisers migrate from television to the internet.

YouTube will continue to retain its brand, its new headquarters in San Bruno, US, and all 67 employees.

Google has also entered into a strategic business relationship with the two music companies, Sony BMG Music Entertainment and Warner Music Group, making

music videos and other content available on its Google Video website.

The content will be paid for by advertisements through Google's AdSense network of hundreds of thousands of advertisers. The advertising revenue generated will be shared by the music companies and Google.

(Associated Press via NewsEdge/DM Europe.com)

Support for independent domain name body

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION welcomed US government moves to make the company that manages internet domain names independent by 2009.

A Reuters report said the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), which controls addresses including ".com" and country domain names such as ".cn" for China, now reports to the US Commerce Department.

"A new and final chapter opened this weekend. We

welcome that ICANN will be set free in a process over the next three years," Commission spokesman Martin Selmayr, was quoted as saying. The US has fought off attempts to wrest control of the domain-name system from the Commerce Department, the report said.

US control of ICANN had become a sticking point for countries such as Iran and Brazil, which argued it should be managed by the United Nations or another global body, the report said. *(Reuters)*

Cisco's Chambers a mobile video fan

CISCO SYSTEMS CEO John Chambers, appearing at a Gartner IT event in October, argued that interactive, high-definition teleconferencing that's so sharp you can see the sweat on the hand of a poker player will deliver both the perfect storm and a perfect spring day to IT. Even as it forces network capacity upgrades, it's going to cut corporate travel bills, enhance customer contacts and boost productivity, he said.

Collaboration, said Chambers, will emerge from unified communications – data, voice and video – and from the fact that those communications will be mobile.

"The future isn't about a mobile device by itself, it is how they come together," he said. • *(Computer World)*



HÅKAN LILJENBERG/PRB

Calling from above

HIKERS WHO REACH THE PEAK of Malaysia's Mount Kinabalu can now communicate with their loved ones through video calls thanks to the services provided by Celcom's 3G coverage. Celcom Malaysia CEO Datuk Shazalli Ramly said the company had earned

the distinction of providing the highest 3G coverage in the world to date. About 200,000 local and foreign travellers visited Mount Kinabalu this year and out of that number 17,000 scaled the 4,095m mountain. •

(The Star, Kuala Lumpur)

Digital music set to drive 3G

ACCORDING TO RESEARCH by Frost & Sullivan, digital music is expected to fuel growth of the mobile market and provide 3G services with much-required impetus. In addition, the availability of the 3G network capacity, combined with the increasing availability of music-friendly feature phones, will drive enhanced adoption of these services.

The mobile music market is projected to exhibit substantial growth, with key participants such as handset vendors and operators offering customers a bundled package of both communication and entertainment. The new mobile music value chain represents key telcos and handset vendors, further up the value chain, partnering with record labels in offering content. Innovations in both the business model and delivery mechanisms are likely have a favourable effect on the market. •

(ZDNET)

India prepares for 3G rollout

INDIA'S TELECOM INDUSTRY is gearing up for the rollout of 3G networks, with the government aiming to have operators launch services by the second half of 2007.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued recommendations to the Department of Telecom for the allocation and pricing of spectrum, suggesting it should be issued in three bands: 450 MHz, 800 MHz, and 2.1 GHz, with the first blocks of spectrum becoming available for auction in six to nine months.

It says five GSM operators should receive spectrum in the 2.1 GHz band; the country's two CDMA operators, Reliance and Tata, should receive spectrum in the 800 Mhz band; and one additional operator should get spectrum in the 450 Mhz for CDMA.

TRAI recommended a three-tiered pricing structure – USD 3.27 million in smaller towns and cities, USD 8.72 million in secondary cities, and USD 17.44 million for major metros including New Delhi and Mumbai.

The regulator says that 3G should be viewed as a stand-alone service, to avoid the piecemeal allocation of spectrum that has plagued the rollout of 2G networks. •

(Light Reading)



COLORBLIND IMAGES

Parent-friendly handset for kids

ITALIAN MOBILE OPERATOR Vodafone Italia has partnered with Disney Italia to launch a parent-friendly handset for kids that lets parents monitor and restrict their children's communication.

The D 100 Vodafone Disney Primofonino provides parents with information on who their child is

communicating with, both by calls and text messages.

The handset also allows parents to restrict their child's communication.

Parents can choose to block calls or text messages if the caller or recipient is not on the contact list. •

(DMEurope)