



Metranet and Sabre demonstrate VoIP over WiMAX with The Brighton Festival

Metranet Communications, the company that specializes in building wireless metropolitan intranets (or "metranets") using a pre-WiMAX standard, has partnered with Sabre Telecommunications to deliver Voice over IP (VoIP) to businesses in the Brighton area.

The test case for this highly innovative voice service has come in the form of The Brighton Festival club "The Famous Spiegelent", a turn-of-the-century Belgian tent sited on The Old Steine near the Palace Pier. Having installed a free Wi-Fi hotspot over the Spiegelent last year (partly the reason why there is a www.looseconnection.com hotspot in Pavilion Gardens to this day) and working with them at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, this time round Metranet was eager to be a little more ambitious with the technology.

Making the Spiegelent a client on the WiMAX network, Metranet has not only installed free Wi-Fi over the tent but also integrated their box office with Komedia through a secure Virtual Private Network and installed and commissioned VoIP handsets. Using this system, The Spiegelent organizers can email their international artists, sell tickets seamlessly alongside the Komedia, and make local rate calls across the UK whilst completely eliminating their internal call costs to any other VoIP phone on the Metranet or Sabre's network. Using VoIP also means the Spiegelent organizers can also have exactly the same number in Edinburgh, indeed anywhere in the UK.

Roger Horlock, Client Account Director of Metranet Communications, believes that "VoIP may prove to be the killer application of a metranet as the WiMAX standard evolves. The capability to eliminate your phone bill enables a near-term return on initial network investment."

Jane McMorrow, Head of the Brighton Festival, says "The Brighton Metranet is invaluable to the organisation of the Festival. Having a single wireless infrastructure across the city means that we can integrate remote box offices, reduce our overheads and communicate more efficiently. In that the Brighton Festival attracts artists from all over the world, never has this been more important."

Please contact Roger Horlock, Client Account Director, on 01273 777 300 or roger@metranet.co.uk for further information.

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