

ZipT App,” said incoming executive director Keaton Wallace. The company said it looks set to recommence trading on the ASX on or around 12 June.

MICROSOFT LAUNCHES REAL-TIME TRANSLATION ON SKYPE

Microsoft has announced a new Skype feature that allows real-time speech-to-speech translation. The new feature, Skype Translator, was showcased by Microsoft at the Code Conference in California this week. In a live demonstration, Microsoft corporate VP of Skype and Lync Gurdeep Pall spoke in English to a German-speaking colleague over Skype with the conversation, both text and voice, translated in real-time. Skype Translator is currently in development and will be available in beta for Windows 8.1 in certain languages by the end of this year, Microsoft said.

FEATURE PHONE SHIPMENTS DROP TO 13% IN THE US

Shipments of traditional mobile phones dropped to just 13% of the overall market in the first quarter of 2014, according to Counterpoint’s Market Monitor tracker. The data showed 33 million shipped devices in the US during the period, 87% of which were smartphones. The market was dominated by Samsung and Apple, who combined accounted for more than two-thirds of all shipments. Meanwhile, three out of four smartphones shipped in the period were LTE-enabled.

ON THIS DAY 10 YEARS AGO: FROM THE COMMSDAY 2004 ARCHIVES

Macquarie Corporate’s aggressive push into the government sector resulted in its third government contract win, with the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts awarding it the tender to provide secure internet gateway services... following reports that NTT would step in to improve growth figures at mobile subsidiary NTT DoCoMo, Vodafone Japan’s UK-based parent said that it had committed to reinvigorating the business and reverse a full year 2003 net loss of 100 billion yen (US\$89.5 billion)... Swiftel and People Telecom both secured top ten honours in Deloitte’s annual fastest growing technology company survey.

Letter to the editor from Professor Reg Coutts

Clarification on ACMA comments

I write with respect to the article in Comms Day of the 26th May describing the "C-band clash...." and I would like to clarify possible misinterpretation of my reported comments regarding the Australian Communications and Media Authority’s (preliminary) position on the forthcoming APT meeting in Brisbane on this controversial issue.

Essentially, the ACMA preliminary position is based on the ACMA’s primary considerations as the national spectrum regulator. The argument that has been well made is that in Australia IMT and satellite use in the C-band can be coordinated. It is understood that this is not the situation for many other countries with whom we trade that are considering the same issue.

Therefore, the (final) considered position for Australia to be taken to WRC in 2015 must take into account wider industry impacts and regional sensitivities. A broader framework for consideration particularly on this issue is beyond the reasonable ambit of the ACMA and should be considered by whole of Government. Such a broader framework would include the Department of Communications and Foreign Affairs as is the case in overseas jurisdictions such as the UK and US.

My call to the satellite industry is not to focus all its arguments on the ACMA role and could more effectively engage with its stakeholders and the Government.

My comments are in no way a criticism of the competence of the ACMA and its professional staff. The ACMA operates under a clear policy framework from Government and the relevant Acts to maximise the overall public benefit from the use of the spectrum in Australia.

Professor Reg Coutts