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unlisted

Stock	Last \$
Active Equities	400.00
Berkley	0.01
Bridgecorp	0.55
Blue Sky	2.20
EastPack Inv	1.92
EastPack Tran	-
Escalator Ad	0.06
Ermedia	0.06
INTAZ	0.03
King Country	4.25
NZDF	1.87
Open Country	2.00
Pharmazone	0.06
Rangitira A	8.00
Rangitira B	6.00
Rural Equities	1.61
Seddon Vineyards	2.88
Skyline Ent	6.80
St Laurence	1.00
Gly Technologies	0.38
Tasman Farm	0.48
Terra Vita	1.80
Waiopae Con	-
Waiopae Ord	0.90

www.unlisted.co.nz

The wireless wave rolls in

Continued from C1

Bostwick envisions WiMax's best uses will be in providing broadband access to areas not reached by Telecom's lines and, perhaps, in replacing existing 3G technology in providing data services to mobile phones, which is expensive and clunky.

Chris Aspros, managing director of NZ Wireless, sees a bigger future for WiMax, as it's naturally superior to fixed-line, DSL access.

"You can't take DSL with you. We're going to be moving towards mobility overall anyway — and that's in voice, data and video — over the next 10 years... it's going to be an all-in-one package that's going to win."

The move to mobility is a major trend that WiMax boosters are banking on. While sales of desktop PCs have been slowing for years, laptops have been going through the roof — they are already officially outselling desktops in the US. Gartner Group analysts expect laptop sales to grow by 26.5 per cent this year, while desktop sales will increase by only 4.6 per cent.

It's a trend that's being mirrored in New Zealand. IDC reports 101,758 laptops were sold in the first half of this year, up 34 per cent from last year. Desktops, meanwhile, sold 167,907 units, down 12 per cent. The shift, IDC says, is being primarily driven by the declining cost of laptops but mobile internet connectivity is becoming a bigger factor.

As such, wireless — and WiMax — have a considerable number of boosters.

"It's a highly relevant technology for New Zealand... It's going to vie and compete strongly with DSL offerings," said Christopher Loh, telecommunications analyst for IDC. "Wireless players with migration paths in place such as BCL — and even niche-market participants such as Reach Wireless and NZ Wireless/Gasp — are in a strong position to reap potentially substantial gains from the provision of WiMax services. The deployment of such services may threaten or at least influence the existing services of the carriers who are watching closely."



OPEN FIELD: Lewis and Jenni Vaughan can access the internet from anywhere on their Putaruru farm thanks to a wireless connection. PICTURE / GETTY IMAGES

PERSONAL BROADBAND

- More than 100 WiMax trials are going on across the world, with two-thirds happening in emerging markets.
- The 330-member WiMax Forum — comprised of a who's who of the communications world, including Intel, Microsoft, Cisco, Alcatel and others — is testing equipment and setting standards. A final standard for fully mobile WiMax is expected by late next year.
- South Korea is, as usual, ahead of the game. Korea Telecom is launching its version of mobile WiMax, called WiBro, in April. WiBro is expected to offer a download rate of 1 megabit per second (four times faster than

- basic broadband offerings here), even when the user is moving at speeds up to 70km/h. WiBro access is expected to cost US\$30 (\$42.50) a month, and Korea Telecom expects to have 9.5 million customers by 2012.
- Intel is launching "handtops", a device halfway between a PDA and a laptop, next year. They will be wi-fi and WiMax compliant.
- There are 300 million broadband subscribers across the globe — only 5 per cent of the world.
- Experts predict a move to personal broadband — rather than having one connection per home, it will soon be one or more connections per individual.

"These small guys — WiMax really gives potential advantages to in terms of rolling out relatively low-cost pops across New Zealand."

Martyn Levy, vice-president of business development for wi-fi

software supplier Roam AD, said larger providers such as TelstraClear could go a step further.

"It's going to make it easier for those who have the financial ability to bypass the local [DSL] loop. It's basic-

ally a DSL replacement technology. If you've got the [radio] spectrum, you've got the ability to do that."

But other analysts warn against trying to compete with Telecom. "Even in areas where there's no broadband now but there is the potential for Telecom to move in, you have to be wary because as soon as you start rolling out wireless, they might then follow you and overbuild with fixed line," said Sydney-based telecommunications analyst Paul Budde. "Then your business case is gone."

Telecom, for its part, is thus far only dabbling in wireless through reselling BCL's Extend service and is taking a wait-and-see approach with WiMax. Chief operating officer Simon Moutter said it would be interesting to see the wired-versus-wireless battle play out over the next few years.

"However, when it comes to high-speed services, the economics and the performance benefits of fixed network and broadband will continue to prevail over wireless as far as we can see forward. Markets and customers will move to what works for them on an economic and performance basis. We'll just be wherever customers prefer to be."

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*The Guaranteed Bonds have a rating of AA+ in Standard and Poor's. The rating is subject to the relevant issuer's credit rating review and is not a recommendation.

**Application has been made to NZX for permission to list the Guaranteed Bonds on the NZX stock exchange. A requirement of NZX listing is that the bonds can be bought or sold on the day of a cover bid. This has been confirmed with NZX. However, NZX does not warrant the accuracy of this statement in its cover letter.

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IMF tips robust growth in world economy

A leaked report predicts expansion of 4.3 per cent in 2006 despite energy costs

BY MIKE DOLAN IN WASHINGTON

WORLD economic growth is set to power ahead through 2006, well above long-term averages despite concerns about rocketing energy costs, a leaked copy of the International Monetary Fund's twice-yearly World Economic Outlook shows.

Citing an advance copy of the report, due to be published by the IMF next week, German newspaper *Handelsblatt* said the fund would cut its global growth forecast for 2006 to 4.3 per cent from the 4.4 per cent rate it expected in April.

It retains its 4.3 per cent call for 2005.

A 4.3 per cent growth rate this year and next would see the world economy still expanding at almost half a percentage point above the 3.9 per cent aver-

age of the past 10 years.

The forecast also exceeds relatively bullish forecasts from banks such as Goldman Sachs, which sees 4 per cent world growth this year and next.

And it is almost a full percentage point above the outlook from gloomier Washington-based think tanks such as the Institute for International Economics, which expects the world economy to slow to 3.5 per cent in 2006.

Handelsblatt said the IMF expected economic activity next year to be dampened by high oil prices following Hurricane Katrina.

But the net impact on its forecasts appears slight.

A senior IMF official quoted by the paper said that risks to the outlook were rising despite robust growth.

"Although the global economy is still expanding at a satisfactory rate, risks have increased," he said.

IMF managing director Rodrigo Rato said the effects of Katrina would have only a short-term impact on the overall US and world economies.

"We don't see an economic problem here, we see a human problem," Rato said in New York this week.

He added that he saw no need for the US Federal Reserve to change the rhythm of monetary tightening due to the effects of the hurricane.

Gerd Haeusler, the IMF's director of international capital markets, echoed this view in Frankfurt and said the strength of global financial markets and systems meant shocks such as Katrina could be absorbed.

He also said the world's major central banks needed to end their super-loose monetary policies as soon as they determined their economies could cope with higher interest rates.

"I have been urging monetary authorities to change, and the US has done it, and one year after there has been no detrimental effects."

IMF and World Bank six-monthly meetings are next weekend. Reuters

Stakes climb at Evergreen

EVERGREEN FOREST'S largest shareholder may have already backed a \$112 million bid by the New Zealand Superannuation Fund for the bulk of its forests, yet rival bidder James Fielding is not giving in without a fight.

The Australian investment fund yesterday increased its offer to \$115 million for all of Evergreen's North Island forests and land.

The revised offer is being considered by Evergreen's board.

On Wednesday, the US-based Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (Opers), which holds a 40.6 per cent stake in Evergreen, said it would back the NZ Super Fund proposal at a special meeting to be held in Auckland on September 26.

That announcement effectively stymied an earlier \$104.2 million bid by Evergreen's North Island forestry assets by James Fielding.

NZPA

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Interest rates and terms available and subject to change without notice. Please contact us on telephone 0800 888 181 for a copy of our current Investment Statement and application forms.

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