



AUSTRALIA'S FIRST VOIP PHONE CALL USING POWER LINE BROADBAND

Sydney, Australia – XX May, 2005 – Broadband over Powerline (BPL) technology has passed a major milestone with Australia's first successful delivery of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) across a BPL network.

The VoIP calls have successfully linked to land line and mobile phones as part of a trial being carried out in Queanbeyan by leading Australian energy services business *Country Energy* and Australian broadband phone company *engin*.

The BPL trials are expected to continue for another 18 months.

Country Energy's Manager Telecommunications Enterprises, Geoff Fietz, said the successful trial clearly demonstrates the maturing of BPL and the potential of the technology.

"BPL technology has the potential to provide affordable broadband access to rural and regional Australia without reliance on existing service delivery options," he said.

"It also offers *Country Energy* another way of improving customer service as it gives us faster and more cost-effective ways to manage, monitor and control the network, and read household meters."

The trial VoIP calls using BPL were made through *engin's* *Voice Box* technology which was connected to an analogue telephone and a Mitsubishi BPL modem. The modem was plugged into a standard powerpoint.

"This demonstrates the enormous potential of the technology – every powerpoint becomes a broadband delivery point," stated Mr Fietz.

engin Chief Executive Officer Ilkka Tales said VoIP over BPL has massive potential as a last mile solution.

engin Voice Box has proved its ability to deliver high quality calls to land lines and mobile phones over BPL and has adapted perfectly to this new environment.

“Combining BPL technology with *engin* can create an affordable last mile solution to consumers and businesses,” added Tales.

The *engin Voice Box* allows people to make and receive calls from any land line or mobile phone over their broadband Internet connection using VoIP technology. It can deliver savings of up to 40 per cent [1] on phone bills.

[1] Savings as demonstrated by consumer trials.

About Country Energy

Country Energy is a leading Australian energy services corporation owned by the New South Wales Government, with around 3,300 employees serving more than 780,000 customers. It manages Australia’s largest power supply network across 95 per cent of the land mass of New South Wales. Country Energy offers retail electricity in five states and territories, with a product range that includes natural and bottled gas, Internet services and energy efficiency advice.

About engin

engin (ENG) is the first broadband telephony service to be broadly available to Australian consumers and businesses on the shelves of major retailers. engin is headquartered in Sydney, Australia and was granted its telecommunications carrier license in March 2004 to deliver a digital voice service across existing broadband connections. engin, winner of the 2005 iAwards AIIA communications category, offers six products in the engin suite: engin Voice Box series 1 & 2, engin X-Pro, engin X-Lite, engin 1way and engin switchboard all of which provide affordable telecommunication alternatives to Australian consumers and businesses. For more information, please visit www.engin.com.au

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