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Press Release

Beeline launches LTE-700 in Kazakhstan

Almaty, Kazakhstan, October 19, 2010. - "KaR-Tel", a company with limited liability, part of the Vimpelcom Ltd group, which offers communications services in Kazakhstan under the Beeline brand, announced a pilot launch of outdoor LTE-based 4G network, the first in the post-Soviet territory. The network will operate in the 700 MHz band (band 13, according to 3GPP specifications) in the city of Almaty, business capital of Kazakhstan. Equipment for the network has been delivered by Alcatel-Lucent (Euronext Paris and NYSE: ALU).

The new LTE network covers the central districts of Almaty. The capabilities of the new network can be tested on the board of the so-called "LTE-mobile", a high-tech mobile laboratory filled with all necessary equipment. The Beeline LTE network can - in real conditions - ensure maximum download rate of 60 Mbps and maximum upload rate of 15 Mbps. Average data rates per subscriber will equal 8-10 Mbps (DL) and 2-4 Mbps (UL).

LTE is the main road for further evolution of 2G and 3G mobile networks. It provides additional capabilities both for service providers who can maximize hardware performance, coverage and, consequently, user experience, and for end-users who will get next-generation services, high-speed mobile Internet access, as well as seamless operation and instant reaction of multimedia applications, personal media services, etc.

"LTE is, first of all, high speed, and we are happy that Vimpelcom's business in Kazakhstan is developing at 4G speed in line with worldwide telecommunication trends. Our pilot LTE network became the first operating at 700 MHz frequency band in the post-Soviet space. And now it operates in close-to-real conditions. For us it is a very important step, because one of the main strategic areas for the company is broadband Internet access, fixed and mobile. We are pleased that our initiative was fully supported by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Communications and Informatics, and now we can demonstrate all the benefits of 4G communications", said Dmitry Kromsky, vice-president of Vimpelcom Ltd in charge of business development in CIS.

"We are proud that Vimpelcom used Alcatel-Lucent LTE solution for pilot network roll out in Kazakhstan. We have been partnering with VimpelCom for a long time now and we are fully committed to help our customer provide mobile broadband communication services in the country" said Alexander Tikhonov, Head of Alcatel-Lucent's business in CIS. "Alcatel-Lucent is a global leader in LTE thanks to our seven contracts and more than fifty trials with the world's leading service providers and we are therefore best positioned to successfully support LTE launch in Kazakhstan and other CIS countries."

On June 22, 2010 Ministry of Communications and Informatics of the Republic of Kazakhstan allowed KaR-Tel to deploy the outdoor LTE pilot network. It is planned to introduce LTE demonstration zones in the largest business centers of Almaty in November, where LTE modems will be presented to subscribers for beta testing.

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KaR-Tel (branded "Beeline" in Kazakhstan) and CA-Telcom (branded "Golden Telecom" in Kazakhstan) are part of the Vimpelcom Ltd group. The companies offer GSM 900/1800 mobile communications, fixed telephony, high-speed Internet access and wireline FTTB data transfer services. In 2008 Beeline became the first company that obtained official permission to deliver GSM 1800 services in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Vimpelcom Ltd group includes service providers delivering voice and data services based on a wide range of wireless and fixed communications technologies, as well as broadband Internet

access. Vimpelcom Ltd headquarters is located in Amsterdam. Vimpelcom Ltd daughter companies operate in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan, Georgia, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Vietnam and Cambodia in the territory populated by 345 million people. Vimpelcom Ltd companies offer their services under the brands "Beeline" and "Kievstar". Vimpelcom Ltd shares are traded at New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) under the VIP symbol.

For more detailed information, please, refer to:

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