

News Release

True awards Datacraft a US\$5m contract to implement its national IP backbone infrastructure

VPN over MPLS key to new managed service offerings

Singapore, 16 June 2005 – Datacraft, the region's leading independent IT services company, has been awarded a US\$5 million contract by Thailand's True Corporation PCL. The contract covers the design and implementation of a nationwide Internet Protocol (IP) Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) network that will deliver new value-added services for Trues' portfolio of broadband, wireless, cellular and wireline telephone services.

As Thailand's only fully-integrated telecommunications solutions provider, True is also in the unique position of being able to enjoy economies of scale by running multiple services across an integrated backbone network. Datacraft was awarded the contract because of the strength of its Professional and Managed services, as well as the rich functionality of its proposed solution.

"Putting advanced MPLS capabilities at the heart of its network will help True to accelerate its business by enabling a range of new value added services over a single infrastructure," said Somchart Kanha, General Manager of Datacraft Thailand.

"Datacraft is committed to delivering a highly-efficient, scalable and secure network that will ensure Service Level Agreements with True's internal and external customers are guaranteed. Simplified provision and the inherent efficiency of operating a single infrastructure will enable True to reduce its costs."

True provides consumers, small and medium enterprises and corporations in Thailand with the full range of voice, data and multimedia solutions. It is the largest wire-line service provider in the Bangkok Metropolitan Area, the largest Broadband operator in the country and a major player in the wireless, cellular and Internet markets. It is also a significant shareholder in UBC, Thailand's dominant pay television operator.

"Across the Group, we already offer a very broad portfolio of services but they are delivered over disparate networks," said an Executive of True Corporation PLC. "This project will enable us to converge our backbone networks on to a single, more efficient and manageable infrastructure, without impacting customer access."

"The real payoff, however, will be in the new generation of value-added service we will be able to provide, particularly through use of virtual private networks which are highly efficient over MPLS. We will, for example, be able to offer business customers voice-over-IP VPN services with centrex-style provisioning from our data centre. Other managed services – for video, conferencing, private content distribution, multicasting and security – as well as any-to-any WAN connectivity, will also be available."

One of the key benefits of Datacraft's VPN-over-MPLS solution is its connectionless nature which overcomes the scalability issues of using conventional, connection-oriented VPN in a meshed topology. This will enable very large virtual networks to be implemented with the additional reliability, security and quality-of-service benefits the MPLS brings.

One of the first beneficiaries of this will be True's subsidiary, TA Orange. TA Orange, which has attracted more than US\$3.6 million customers since its launch in 2002, is Thailand's fastest growing cellular network service provider. To ensure that TA Orange can continue its aggressive expansion, True will provide a high-availability, high-capacity virtual backbone network to support nation-wide wireless voice services.

Within the Bangkok Metropolitan Area, where True operates an access network of more than 2.5 million lines, it will be able to leverage differentiated class-of-service that comes from MPLS highly-granular QoS capabilities to offer high-quality TV-over-ADSL services to its broadband consumer customers.

There is no material impact on this financial year.

About Datacraft

"Best Asian Systems Integrator" for fifth consecutive year - Telecom Asia

Datacraft is the leading independent IT services and solutions company in Asia Pacific. The company helps clients plan, build and support their IT infrastructures. Datacraft combines an expertise in networking, security, operating environments, storage and contact centre technologies, with advanced skills in consulting, integration and managed services, to craft IT solutions for businesses.

A member of the Dimension Data Group, Datacraft is listed on the main board of the Singapore Exchange and is a component company of the Straits Times Index. Headquartered in Singapore, Datacraft spans more than 50 major offices and has over 1,200 employees across 13 Asia Pacific markets. More information can be found at www.datacraft-asia.com

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