
Armenia's Population Can Make Use Of Internet Services Of New Fiber Optic FiberNet Communications Starting April 2007.

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The Armenian FiberNet Communications has signed today a Contract on cooperation with the biggest Netherlands Linxtelecom Company, according to which the Armenian side will receive an alternative Internet communication.

As the Director of FiberNet Communications Armen Khachatryan told the journalists, the country's population will be able to make use of the Internet services of this fiber-optic network starting April, 2007. He noted that the Internet services, including the IPT and the TV- services, will be of high quality with the rate of 100 milliseconds and by 60% cheaper than the similar services of the former monopolist of a fiber-optic network, the ArmenTel Company.

A. Khachatryan expressed confidence that the entry of the new Company will create a field of healthy competition with ArmenTel.

A. Khachatryan also informed that the FiberNet will rent a part of the fiber-optic railway cable, having been operated since 2003, within the frames of the EU-financed TRASECA program. This cable passes from the Georgian border through Ayrum, Alaverdi, Vanadzor, Spitak, Gyumri, Armavir, Masis and Yerevan.

According to him, a fiber-optic network with length of 25 km has already been laid and a fiber-optic main Ayrum-Yerevan is equipped by means of the FiberNet. The total length of the Company's network today makes up 350 km. "The work on the network construction is still underway", A. Khachatryan noted. He also informed that further it is scheduled to render the audio services as well and to build a main fiber-optic network Yerevan-Meghri that will allow to connect with the Iranian fiber-optic main for data exchange.

In his turn, RA Minister of Transport and Communication Andranik Manukyan noted that this is an important step that will allow to enlarge the country's investment field via a high-quality communication. According to him, even in 2006, RA President Robert Kocharyan had entrusted him with a task to provide the country with high-quality and cheap Internet- communication.

In his congratulatory speech, RA Minister of Trade and Economic Development Karen Chshmarityan noted that this is an important step in the development of IT-Armenia that will allow to make the next step towards the development of a new IT strategy. "The information technologies is not a self-purpose but a way to enhance the economy's efficiency", he said.

To note, a fiber-optic cable was put into operation in 2003 by a grant of 5 mln Euro given to Armenia by the European Union within then frames of TRASECA. This cable is purposed to assure a safety in the railway transport.

However, a high carrying capacity of the cable, that connects Ayrum with the Poti Georgian port and then with Novorossiysk, had not been used for a long time.
