

OCL launches latest internet standard in Orissa

Nageshwar Patnaik

BHUBANESWAR 21 AUGUST

ORTEL Communications Ltd (OCL), Orissa's leading Cable TV multi-service operator (MSO), on Wednesday launched its much-awaited broadband internet service. The service, which is based on the state-of-the-art Docsis 2.0 standard, was launched under the brand name Ortel.net. The Bhubaneswar-based company has become the first company in South Asia to emerge as a complete convergence provider.

"It is a culmination of our dream to become a complete convergence services provider. We have built a world-class hybrid fibre coaxial (HFC) network, with over 30 fibre nodes in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack," company director Jagi Mangat Panda told ET. Ms Panda said the modems cost only Rs 5,000 while the earlier cable modems cost about Rs 9,000.

"Besides, it is faster and more reliable."

OCL, the country's first licensed ISP in the private sector, has more than 500 customers, including 100 cyber cafes and 30 corporate houses. Faced with the prospect of competition from big players, OCL has been waiting for commercial viability of the Docsis 2.0 technology. US-based Cable Labs, which has developed the Docsis 2.0 technology, began technical experimentation in December last year and launched it commercially in June.

OCL chief technology officer M.M. Patnaik said, "Cable Labs is the industry leader in broadband communication. Its worldwide acceptance and appreciation is due to its advantageous position over other new telecom standards like digital subscriber line (DSL) and satellite broadband. It is cheaper in comparison to other technologies because of absence of any telephone charges. It is also customer-friendly."

Docsis 2.0 will offer a 30 megabits per second bandwidth and a toll-quality phone service on voice over internet protocol (VOIP) technology. OCL plans to provide its phone services on VOIP technology by the year-end. "With several classes of services we expect a surge in demand for cable-modem services in the state," assistant vice-president B.P. Rath said.

EAST

Same