

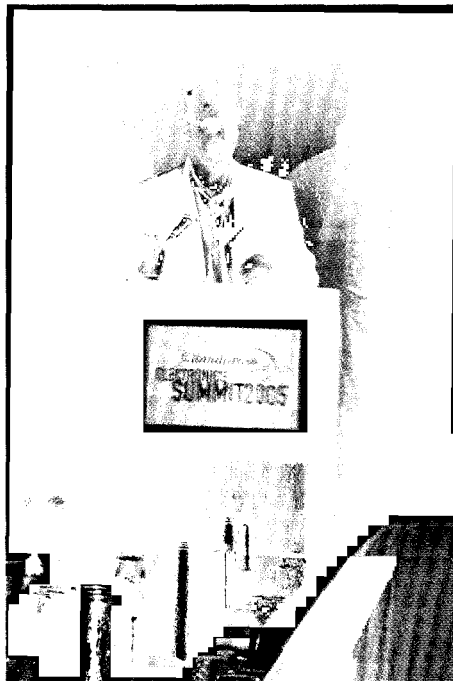
Networking for triple play

Service providers are focusing on triple play, the transmission of voice, data and video and Bob Bailey, president and CEO, PMC-Sierra (www.pmc-sierra.com) believes the second wave of infrastructure capital upgrade is just beginning. This is a happy position for PMC and other comms and storage semiconductor providers.

Speaking at the Globalpress summit **The era of convergence**, in Monterey, Bailey (pictured right) cited today's accessible bandwidth, together with the storage and compression technologies available today enabling a new wave of consumer applications. The file sizes generated by digital cameras and the TV on demand services need infrastructure support, argues Bailey.

Triple play services have seen the beginning of VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) which meets the demands for video downloading, for example, with download capacities of 25M baud rate. Content owners, be they individuals storing digital photo galleries, or Hollywood delivering films on demand, will require bulk server storage. They will

also need to leverage the network and transport structure, be it SONET or SDH, and routers to deal with IP and access the multiplexers, whether cable or DSL to store to the cache at a local level.



PMC-Sierra is focusing on enabling digital convergence, says Bailey, by accelerating 3G, promoting VoIP in residence and enterprise networks and to make the 'holy grail' of triple play service deployment standard on all networks. ATM networks are migrating to Ethernet-based IP networks, partly to preserve legacy investment and reduce the capital expenditure of service providers for DSLAMS to interface between ATM-based CPE and the Ethernet access network.

Part of this strategy is the introduction in Q2 of the ATM-to-Ethernet internetworking device for IP DSLAMS. The PM7354 S/UNI DUPLEX GE provides DSLAM vendors with increased bandwidth in low-cost, multi-service IP DSLAMS. The device implements ATM to Ethernet conversion in dedicated hardware and is a cost-effective alternative to network processors or FPGAs for this role. The HSPBGA device eliminates the need for proprietary software for network processors and can reduce development costs by allowing lower cost IP DSLAMs to be used. Devices can simultaneously aggregate 144 ADSL2+ modems and offers Gbit Ethernet line rate throughput and non-blocking multi-cast to increase the triple play offerings and therefore the average revenue per user. An evaluation kit, with the company's MSP2006 control processor and SwitchCore CXE2130 Ethernet switch is available in the same time frame.

Mobile around Europe

The number of mobile phone subscribers in Central and Eastern Europe reached 78million in June last year, with Russia, Poland and the Czech Republic accounting for over half of that number. Even smaller countries, such as Belarus, Kirghizstan and Tadjikistan are set for triple-digital growth rates in the period from June 2004 to June this year.

Networks are becoming more established in central and eastern Europe as well as in Asia and Africa, which accounts for part of the uptake, but the nature of phones and phone services also plays a part.

Automation acquisition

Graphical design and simulation software have been added to the National Instruments' portfolio, with the acquisition of Electronics Workbench, the Canadian design automation company. Previously, NI and Electronic Workbench worked together to integrate the latter's MultiSim circuit simulation software into the LabVIEW graphical development environment through downloadable software and technical resources. This announcement, according to NI's Ray Almgren, is a step forward in making the company's vision of providing the industry with a graphical system design platform that seamlessly integrates disparate design, simulation and test tools throughout the design process.

● For more test and measurement news, see this month's feature