NTT and Matsushita Group Agrees to Work Together For a FTTH Trial Project in Kanazawa

Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. Matsushita Communication Industrial Co., Ltd.

Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT), Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. (MEI), known for its Panasonic brand products, and Matsushita Communication Industrial Co., Ltd. (MCI), MEI's telecommunication subsidiary, have reached an agreement to work together on a trial project for information sharing business utilizing FTTH(Fiber to the home) technology. The trial project is called the FTTH Kanazawa trial, and will be deployed for one year from April 2000 in the city of Kanazawa in Ishikawa Prefecture.

The FTTH Kanazawa trial will be conducted as a part of the building of an information sharing system. Such systems are expected to show strong growth in the future. The aim of the trial is to cooperate to make use of the features of optical network services and to implement a community-oriented Information sharing business using information appliances. It is believed that the results of the test of the FTTH Kanazawa trial will greatly contribute to improvement of living in the community, as well as to invigorate the Information sharing market.

The FTTH Kanazawa trial project will consist of joint study of how to build a business that will provide a mechanism for the distribution of information through the development of a system for an Information sharing service center based in the community.

Especially, Hokuriku Matsushita Life Electronics Co., the local sales company of Matsushita products, will serve as the Information sharing service center which is the base for transmitting the living information. NTT will make maximum use of the existing fiber network, and it will also build an optical local area network (maximum speed: 10 Mbps) interconnect the trial participants and the Information sharing service. In addition, NTT and the Matsushita group will together provide lifestyle information using the optical network and information appliances, and develop services such as My Contents Delivery(1). The companies will also conduct tests to determine the conditions under which the user interface, the network, and the information appliances can achieve consistent and harmonious interoperation. The trial participants will be able to make use of medium- and high-speed Internet access services.

In the future, based on the results of the FTTH Kanazawa trial project, it is to expand the offerings beyond the local community to form a large Information sharing market providing nationwide services, and to create a new Information sharing market rooted in communities throughout Japan.

Note 1: My Contents Delivery

My Contents Delivery provides a system for people to use the materials for creating such content, and for placing it on the computer. It also provides a system for advice and assistance in content creation.

Attachment

- Figure. Outline of the FTTH Kanazawa Trial

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