

User Report



Broadband for rural areas:
“White spots” in Lower Saxony diminishing





There are still plenty of areas in Germany without fast Internet access. Telecommunications service providers, such as htp GmbH from Hanover, use KEYMILE technology to supply these areas with fast DSL access. In addition to high-speed Internet access, htp customers can continue to use traditional telephony services, while htp simultaneously prepares its network for a possible migration to All-IP in the future. To do so, htp uses the migration paths of the multi-service access platform MileGate.

The future belongs to broadband: what are known as the "white spots" are to disappear in Lower Saxony's Hildesheim, Peine and Wedemark districts. To achieve this goal, local authorities appointed the telecommunications service provider htp from Hanover to equip areas that had poor, or no access, with broadband. About 7,000 households and companies are to be given up to 50 Mbps fast VDSL2.

As part of its DSL push, htp will connect all the three areas. In these regions around Hanover, there is currently no DSL, or Internet access only at low bandwidth of 2 Mbps per second and less. Due to this poor access, the potential throughput of up to 50 Mbps does of course sound very tempting. The expansion of broadband is being subsidised by the "Zukunft Breitband" programme initiated by the German Ministry of Economics. Where Wedemark is concerned, htp requires no support but is financing expansion itself. In order to minimise the risk to the network operator, htp drew up a feasibility report before starting the project and compared it with a survey of the households concerned. Enough locals were interested in fast Internet access and expansion was able to start.

htp decided to use KEYMILE's multi-service access platform MileGate in all the DSL expansion projects.

"We've been working with KEYMILE for some time already. The Hanover company was an htp supplier before the expansion project started and had already provided numerous MileGate systems for different voice and data services from exchanges, collocation rooms and street cabinets", says Ralf Kleint, CEO of htp in Hanover. The company's proximity is also a benefit because the manufacturer of data transmission systems is based in Hanover (like htp) and develops and produces there too. "As a result, we don't have far to go. Due to extensive experience in productive operations we are also impressed with the many usage options MileGate offers and its reliability", says Klient. "We believe KEYMILE is a partner who can quickly implement our extreme technical demands."

The technical properties, as well as the reliability and flexibility of the MileGate multi-service access platform, swung the decision in KEYMILE's favour. The access platform is the only product that can handle ISDN via IP. The advantage to htp customers in the areas that will now enjoy fast access: the provider can connect all conventional telephone lines to the MileGate platform without the customers noticing the change of access system. Once connected, everything required is prepared to turn the existing telephone connections into ADSL or VDSL2-compatible connections.

Therefore, the MileGate architecture ensures that people in "white-spot areas" can keep their previous telephone connections. This is a key argument for htp in mitigating any concerns by and gaining approval from customers.

The technical basis is provided by MileGate's hybrid system architecture which allows simultaneous provision of IP-based and TDM services.

Currently htp operates one central location with three Root Nodes. Should the area where access is being expanded grow (because other areas are connected) additional Root Nodes can simply be set up.



Flexible and compact

The MileGate systems are installed in htp street cabinets. htp's own optical fibre lines end in these housings. The subscribers are connected using leased copper lines. Key criteria for inserting access systems in street cabinets are low space requirements, high port density, low power consumption, as well as a wide operating temperature range. MileGate fulfils all these demands and also offers surveillance and monitoring functions, both for network nodes and for the subscriber line.

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KEYMILE technology can also be used to bring optical fibre lines to the home or company (Fiber-to-the-Home). In getting rid of the "white spots", this type of broad band expansion only plays a subordinate role at htp and is usually encountered in urban networks. In rural areas that have poor, or no access, the existing VDSL2-compatible copper lines are still the most cost-effective choice because laying optical fibre is usually much more expensive.

Fit for the future

KEYMILE specialises in migration from traditional telephony to VoIP and has designed MileGate systems accordingly. A software update can extend V5 interfaces to become a VoIP media gateway – no cards need to be exchanged. As a result, the platform is not just a technical bonus for htp, but also a secure investment.

"We hope that MileGate will make migration simpler, so that in future we can lead our network into the world of Next Generation Networks. We're very pleased with the excellent value the access platform provides and KEYMILE's customer support", says Ralf Klient. "In the final analysis, people in the three regions will benefit from fast DSL access and can at last use all the opportunities the Internet offers thanks to htp's investments."

The company

htp GmbH is a telecommunications service provider for the Hannover-Brunswick-Hildesheim business hub.

The regional carrier offers telephone and DSL connections at different bandwidths for residential and corporate customers. Furthermore, added value and network services are also part of the company's product range. htp has its own specially secure data processing centres, from where it delivers solutions for Internet and data traffic to corporate customers. Founded in 1996, htp is one of the most proficient regional carriers in Germany. For more information visit <http://www.htp.net>.