

Bewag acquires Croatian cable TV operators

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Austrian company Burgenländische Elektrizitätswirtschafts (Bewag) has acquired Croatia's two biggest cable operators, DCM and Adriatic Kabel, in a deal worth €5 million.

Announcing the deal, Hans Lukits, president of the Board of Bewag, said they see a lot of potential for growth, in view of Croatia's low broadband penetration rate (13%). He said that Bewag plans to invest €15 million over the next three years to upgrade the network in order to offer triple play – broadband internet, fixed telephony and cable TV. By September, DCM and Adriatic Kabel will be integrated into the newly-established company B.net Croatia, headed by present DCM director Adrian Jezina.

Bewag estimates this year's B.net Croatia revenues could reach €14 million, compared to last year's combined total of €10.5 million. Adriatic Kabel and DCM currently have 92.000 clients in Zagreb, Split, Osijek, Rijeka, Zadar, Velika Gorica and Solin, but this number should grow to 100.000 by the end of 2007.

The Austrians are aiming to make B.net Croatia the biggest competitor to former telecom monopoly T-HT and, with this goal in mind, are currently negotiating the takeover of Croatian telecom operator Wimax Telecom which has been awarded 12 WiMax licenses.

Source: satellitv.net