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Tech Briefs

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Telekom stock slips on rumors of new CEO

Deutsche Telekom's stock drifted lower yesterday amid reports that the heavily indebted phone giant is ready to name its top wireless business manager to succeed the ousted **Ron Sommer** as chief executive and that the company will record a huge loss this year.

In afternoon Frankfurt trading, the company's shares were down 2.82 percent at 10.69 euros.

Over the weekend, the Frankfurter Allgemeine and Financial Times newspapers reported that **Kai-Uwe Ricke**, 41, the head of Telekom's **T-Mobile** wireless division since 1998, was set to be chosen as chief executive by the company's supervisory board when it meets in Bonn on Thursday.

Ricke, whose father ran the company when it was a government-owned monopoly, is regarded as a protege of Sommer and unlikely to sell off Sommer's expensive U.S. acquisition **VoiceStream**, now called T-Mobile U.S.A. The Bellevue subsidiary has been talked about as an acquisition target for months.

Deutsche Telekom has declined to comment on the reports of Ricke's nomination and declined to comment on a report in the Handelsblatt newspaper that the company expects to lose a record \$28 billion this year because of heavy write-offs on acquisitions and licenses for new-generation cell-phone services.

WSDOT to undertake analysis of Web site

The Washington State **Department of Transportation**, which is responsible for traffic flow on the state's roads, bridges and ferries, is now trying to figure out traffic on its popular Web site.

Through an agreement with Bellevue-based **digiMine**, the agency will begin a detailed analysis of www.wsdot.wa.gov.

DigiMine, which makes data analysis software, will provide daily reports on how the Web site is being used.

Among the items it will track are the number of passes being sold for Washington state ferries and the Web cameras that are used most often.

The WSDOT Web site receives 30 million page views every month, with many visitors using the site to check congestion points and weather information.

Microsoft monitors will have new uses

Microsoft Corp., seeking to increase the ways people use computers, will bundle an upgrade of the Windows XP operating system and a wireless adapter with two portable touch-screen monitors that it plans to begin selling next year.

The company will sell a 10- inch screen for \$1,000 and a 15- inch model for \$1,300 beginning in the first quarter of 2003, Product Manager **Meagan Kidd** said.

Users with systems running Windows 98 and more recent editions of the operating system can upgrade to XP Pro for free and will get an adapter that allows PCs to connect wirelessly to the monitor.

Microsoft is trying to boost slowing PC sales by adding new uses.

The Smart Displays device is a lightweight monitor that's connected to a PC wirelessly. People can use it to check e-mail while lounging on a couch or browse Web sites while sitting on a patio. A touch screen eliminates the need for a keyboard.

TV channel features interactive games

Digeo Inc. and **Paul Allen's Charter Communications Inc.** said they now offer an interactive television channel dedicated exclusively to games. Called i-Games, the new channel features games that viewers play by using their remotes.

The interactive games channel is the latest addition to Digeo's Basic iTV service, which that company says is available to more than 650,000 Charter Digital Cable customers nationwide under the brand name Charter i-Channels.

Microsoft Corp. co-founder Allen owns Charter Communications. His **Vulcan** Inc. investing arm backs Digeo.

SNIPPETS

Quinton Cardiology Systems Inc. said that its Q-Stress cardiac system will now display patient, procedure and clinical information using Japanese characters, a development that will help the Bothell company better penetrate the Japanese market.

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