

Optus invests in Capital gains

Optus announced today it would invest \$35 million in Canberra over the next two years to develop a new Canberra Technical Facility.

The state-of-the-art facility will house a satellite earth station, data centre and telecommunications exchange to support communications services including mobile, local and international telephony, internet, subscription television, and satellite services. The facility will provide growth capacity and redundancy for Sydney and Melbourne exchanges.

Scheduled for operation in 2007, the Canberra Technical Facility will be Optus' second exchange in the Capital and will be the primary earth station for the Optus D2 satellite, also due for launch next year.

Bill Hope, Managing Director of Optus Networks, said the new facility would be instrumental in the development and implementation of next generation satellite communication services in Australia and New Zealand.

"In addition to the significant local investment and operational benefits, the new facility will raise the bar for telecommunications competition in the area, generating better services at more competitive prices."

John Simon, Managing Director of Optus Business, said, "Optus is preparing for increased demand for IP technologies and satellite services over the coming years. This facility will boost our development capabilities so that we can provide next generation services to our customers."

The Optus Canberra Technical Facility will be located at Raws Crescent, Hume.

Optus has been operating in the Australian Capital Territory since 1992.

Note to Editor:

- *Optus plans to launch the first D-series satellite later in 2006 from French Guiana.*
- *One Build Pty Ltd has commenced construction on the Canberra Technical Facility.*

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