

Aztek Networks addresses growing telecom drive for 'switch collapse' with introduction of 5000SL

NEWEST ADDITION TO AZTEK'S GROWING LINE OF EMERGENCY STAND ALONE SWITCHES OFFERS A COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION FOR REPLACEMENT OF REMOTE SWITCHING UNITS IN TDM-BASED FIELD CABINETS

Boulder, Colo. (Feb. 11, 2008) Aztek Networks (www.azteknetworks.com), the leader in Emergency Stand Alone (ESA) switches for enabling network switch collapse, today announced the Aztek Networks 5000SL. The 5000SL is a cost-effective version of the company's industry-leading 5000S remote office Emergency Stand Alone switch and is ideally suited for carriers who are looking to replace or reduce the number of remote switches in their existing TDM-based networks.

As a single blade version of Aztek's popular 5000S, the 5000SL ensures uninterrupted local calling capability and access to 911 emergency services for TDM-based access systems within a local calling serving area. The 5000SL communicates via the GR-303 standard and interoperates with all GR-303-based digital loop carriers (DLCs) or multi-service access platforms (MSAPs). It supports up to two GR-303 interface groups or four T1 lines.

"Aztek's 5000SL gives operators a low-cost alternative to selectively deploying transformation solutions where and when it makes the most economical sense, while still leveraging their legacy infrastructure," explained Teresa Mastrangelo, principal analyst at Broadband Trends, a market research firm focused on the telecommunications industry. "With the 5000SL, operators can eliminate the need for expensive remote switches in most network applications, allowing for central office consolidation and switch collapse, a fast-growing trend among carriers today."

The 5000SL continuously and passively monitors one or two GR-303 interface groups that run between access systems or line frames within a remote office and host central office switch. While in ESA mode, the 5000SL helps ensure public safety by continuously maintaining local calling capabilities and subscriber access to emergency 911 services in the event the link to the primary host switch is severed due to an accident or natural disaster.

"We came out with the 5000SL in response to carriers' need for a more cost-effective alternative to replacing the switches in their existing field cabinets and small remote offices," explained Steven Bruny, CEO of Aztek Networks. "The trim 1RU 5000SL not only meets this need but offers carriers added ESA protection by ensuring uninterrupted local calling or 911 response in the event of a line cut or host switch failure." The 5000SL is a compact, environmentally hardened and NEBS-compliant system. It can easily be upgraded to the higher capacity and fully redundant Aztek 5000S to meet carriers' growing demands. Available now, the 5000SL can be purchased directly from Aztek Networks or select partners. For more information, visit Aztek's website at www.azteknetworks.com.

About Aztek Networks

Based in Boulder, Colorado, Aztek Networks is the leader in Emergency Stand Alone (ESA) switching products that enable switch collapse for network migration. The company's patent-pending True ESA™ technology is the basis for the first and only truly open-standards, environmentally hardened and fully redundant ESA switch. Aztek's TDM and IP-based ESA switches, when combined with fiber-to-the-home or broadband multi-service access systems, offer telecommunications carriers reliable and cost-effective solutions for green-field access applications and the replacement of legacy remote switches. More information is available at www.azteknetworks.com.