SCHOOLSAT

Applications: Distance Learning

"For the first time whole classes can use the Internet at the same time, something which simply wasn't possible in the past."
Colm Toland, Teacher at Carndonagh School

PRIME CONTRACTOR:

@iT Audiovisual Technologies, Informatics and Telecommunications
Leuvensesteenweg 132
3370 Roosbeek
Belgium
http://www.atit.be

CONTACT @IT:

Sally Reynolds
Project Manager
E-mail: sally.reynolds@atit.be
Phone: +32 16 284 040
Fax: +32 16 223 743

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Web-Sat (Ireland)
NCTE (Ireland)
DEC (Ireland

PROFILE:

SchoolSat is a trial service partially funded by the European Space Agency under Telecom's Multimedia Programme, providing fast access to the Internet for schools in rural Ireland using leading-edge satellite technology. The aim of the trial is to investigate how far this technology can offer a solution to connect schools to the Internet, to build networks between schools and to transmit large files of information, be it data, video, audio, or graphics.

The service is based on the Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) standard, which is deployed Europe-wide (and is becoming accepted as a worldwide standard) for digital television. It allows the user to receive Internet services with a relatively small antenna (less than 1 metre diameter) and a PC equipped with a satellite modem, anywhere within the footprint of the Eutelsat W3 satellite (used by Web-Sat). This PC can be used as a gateway to connect multiple PCs to the Internet.

The SchoolSat service currently serves the Donegal Education Centre and 9 secondary schools in the county. The schools taking part are equipped with small satellite dishes that allow them to send and receive information at a speed far faster than ISDN. Capitalising on experience gained and technology developed under earlier ESA Telecom supported projects – Trapeze (tele-education via satellite for travelling communities) and Web-Sat (high-speed two-way satellite Internet provision) – SchoolSat is top of the class and has successfully developed a solid example of the provision of sustainable, fully operational satellite Internet services for schools.