

6 October 2006

The Manager

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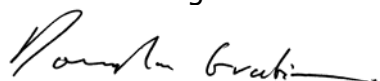
**ELECTRONIC LODGEMENT**

Dear Sir or Madam

**Telstra's turbo-charged, nationwide mobile broadband network goes live**

In accordance with the listing rules, I attach an announcement for release to the market.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas Gration".

**Douglas Gration**  
Company Secretary

6 October 2006

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## **Telstra's turbo-charged, nationwide mobile broadband network goes live**

### **Australia's fastest and largest mobile broadband network, Telstra's turbo-charged NEXT G™ is now live across Australia, built in a record ten months.**

Telstra Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sol Trujillo, and the President and Chief Executive Officer of Ericsson, Mr Carl-Henric Svanberg, switched on the new NEXT G™ (3GSM 850 MHz) network today with video calls to locations across regional Australia, including Thursday Island – far north QLD, Southport – TAS, Cape Byron – NSW and Broome – WA.

Mr Trujillo said Telstra shareholders' \$1 billion investment in the world's geographically largest national 3GSM network delivers unequalled customer reach and speed across the country and is globally acknowledged as a superior spectrum for breadth and depth of coverage.

NEXT G™ is more than 100 times bigger geographically than any other 3GSM network in Australia, delivering voice and broadband services to 98 per cent of the population.

"This is an exciting day for all Australians, no matter where they live and work," Mr Trujillo said. "No one else, here or abroad, has built and launched such a far-reaching, high speed, wireless broadband network in less than a year. It is a versatile, high capacity network with head room for higher speeds in the months and years ahead."

"The opportunities are vast, including service improvements in health and education, productivity improvements in business everywhere, and a competitive advantage for Telstra," Mr Trujillo said.

Turbo-charged with High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA), NEXT G™ is up to 50 times faster than dial-up and up to five times faster than other 3GSM networks. Telstra customers will experience network download speeds averaging 550Kbps to 1.5Mbps, and peak network speeds of up to 3.6Mbps, increasing up to 14.4Mbps early next year.

Mr Svanberg said Telstra's advanced mobile broadband network was designed and built with an evolution path to support the future technology roadmap. Ericsson expects it to reach peak network speeds of up to 40Mbps by 2009, in line with the development of global standardisation.

"The NEXT G™ network's unprecedented scale and scope demonstrates how committed Telstra is to creating new customer experiences that match or surpass the best in the world," he said.

Mr Trujillo said NEXT G™ is an integral part of Telstra's plan to bring broadband to all Australians, no matter where they live, and to transform Telstra into a media communications powerhouse.

"It is a fast, simple, interactive and content rich wireless broadband service that integrates the worlds of communication, information and entertainment," he said.

"We have created a unique 'My Place' menu to give our customers easy, 1-click access to nine services and applications that are most relevant to them. With a simple '1-touch, 1-click' our customers can access FOXTEL, Sensis search, BigPond content, music, email, photos, downloads, maps and My Account information."

Telstra's national media inquiry line is 1300 769 780 and the Telstra Media Centre is located at:  
[www.telstra.com.au/abouttelstra/media](http://www.telstra.com.au/abouttelstra/media)

In an Australian first, customers can:

- watch 12 channels of FOXTEL exclusively on their NEXT G™ handset, including news, sport, wildlife documentaries, and children's programs, with more to come;
- access Telstra's award winning BigPond Mobile service offering entertainment, news, and exclusive content including AFL, NRL, and V8 Supercars;
- watch Warner Bros. classic movies and the BBC's best television programs on their PCs through the BigPond Movie Download service;
- download a music track to both their mobile and computer in 1-click; and
- benefit from Telstra's 'locate me' technology which matches their location with their information request through Sensis services such as CitySearch, WhereIs, Trading Post and Yellow Mobile.

As part of the global community of 3GSM operators, serving over two billion users, NEXT G™ has one of the world's best international roaming footprints. Not only can Telstra customers make voice calls on their Australian NEXT G™ mobile phone in more than 140 countries, but they can access 3G services such as video calling and high speed data in 30 countries.

Telstra customers can make voice calls on their Australian mobile phone in more places while travelling overseas than on any other Australian network.

NEXT G™ customers will be able to install a NEXT G™ turbo card into their computer, providing high-speed access to the Internet for business, entertainment, or personal applications, such as browsing the web or email.

The NEXT G™ turbo card will be especially useful for business customers, allowing high speed data access across Australia and 30 countries around the world, advancing the way enterprises operate, making them more cost effective, productive and internationally competitive.

"Teleworkers at remote locations using wireless broadband and video conferencing will be able to access information traditionally stored in the office almost instantaneously while they are on the road, at the client's office or in the back of a taxi heading to the airport," Mr Trujillo said.

Telstra has been working with leading handset manufacturers, including Samsung, Motorola, LG and Sony Ericsson to produce an impressive NEXT G™ roadmap of approximately 30 devices that will be available over the next 18 months. At launch we have four mobiles (Samsung A701 and A501, Telstra ZTE 850/51 and LGTU500), one PDA (i-mate JASJAM) and one data card (GT Max), with Motorola next month and Palm releasing soon after.

Telstra and Ericsson will continue to extend network coverage and upgrade software for faster speeds next year in readiness for the closure of the CDMA network in 2008, when NEXT G™ coverage will be as good, or better than currently available with the older CDMA technology.

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