



News release

THE AASTRA 5000 GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH WITH LATEST ENHANCEMENTS

Enterprise telephony solution boasts key improvements

Vimodrone , 27th July 2009 – Aastra has announced a number of enhancements to its open standards IP telephony solution for large enterprises, the Aastra 5000. The new features, which come a year after the solution's successful market launch, include additional authentication functionality for IP terminals and trunks, enhancements to ensure ease of deployment and business continuity, as well as broader handset selection. The Aastra 5000 is designed to help businesses significantly improve employee productivity and performance.

Pierre-Alexandre Fuhrmann, Joint Vice President, Global Technology and Development at Aastra, comments: "Better customer service is a top priority for large enterprises in today's economic climate, and more than ever companies need a communications system that enhances productivity and enables employees to improve the customer experience . The Aastra 5000 is gathering momentum and presents a compelling solution for companies looking to move to a robust and scalable IP communications platform in a cost efficient manner."

Aastra 5000 is an innovative software-based IP call control manager designed for medium to large sized businesses (500 to 150,000 users, including multi-site networks), delivering unified communications and collaboration solutions that help improve employee productivity and performance. The Aastra 5000 offers businesses deployment flexibility and better interoperability of systems, terminals and applications with existing IT systems. Using open standard protocols such as SIP, and running on a Linux platform, this software based system enables businesses to migrate easily and at their own pace to a secure, full IP and unified communications solution. Aastra is one of the founding members of the HP ProCurve ONE Alliance, and has tested the Aastra 5000 with ProCurve network switches.

The Aastra 5000 was recently selected by EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg, a binational airport situated on the borders of France, Switzerland and Germany offering direct scheduled flights to more than 70 destinations. Voice communications are mission critical and the system stability and resilience are vital to the ongoing efficiency of the airport. EuroAirport required a communications solution that could link multiple locations transparently and in a cost-efficient way and offer high quality communication services to the more than 130 companies located on its platform.

Key improvements to this latest release of the Aastra 5000 include:

New security enhancements

The latest version of Aastra 5000 now includes authentication for IP terminals and trunks where two levels of protection have been applied. First, the connection of IP terminals to the LAN is secured with the implementation of the 802.1X protocol. Then using a standard protocol (login & password MD5) for IP sets, the software verifies that the correct user is registered on a handset.

More mobility with IP DECT terminals

Aastra IP DECT handsets offer a compelling premised-based mobility solution thanks to improvements in terms of redundancy, security and scalability (up to 4,000 IP DECT handsets can be deployed on a system). Furthermore, IP DECT users can now make use of “call by name” and alarm management functionalities which are ideal for healthcare or industrial environments. In addition, the Aastra 5000 now supports two digital handset models, the 5370 and 5380 (common with Aastra’s Intelligate range), for even more flexibility and choice .

Even easier to deploy

Ease of deployment is a key concern for enterprises who need to make sure their telephone communications system is up and running as quickly as possible. This is why Aastra has developed new provisioning tools for the Aastra 5000 making the IP DECT handsets and SIP terminals even easier and quicker to deploy.

Business continuity plans / Data center architecture – Aastra 5000 provides additional peace of mind

The Aastra 5000 includes additional features that enhance business continuity for customers whose communications are mission critical. For branch office configurations, a dual homing feature ensures that users will be redirected to another Call Server or to a local Media Gateway should the reference Call Server break down or the IP connection fail. For data-center configurations, communication-sustaining functionality within the software also ensures that IP communications which are already established are secured by a second Call Server that can be located on a back-up data-center, in the event of any Call Server failure. So, there is never any break in communication.

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