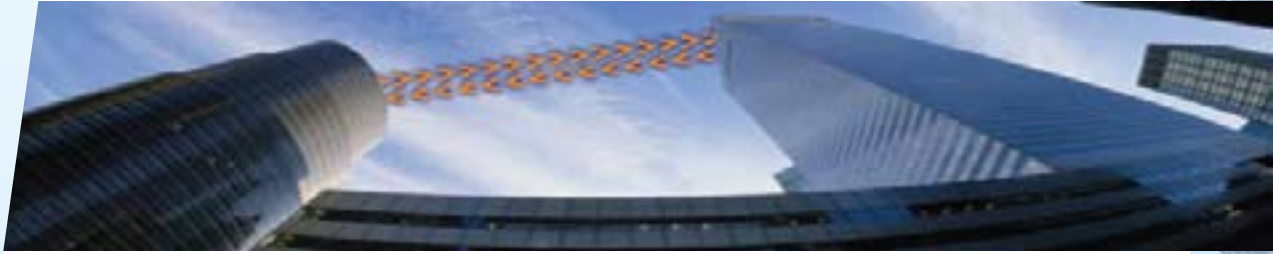




Case Study

# STAR 21 NETWORKS



## Star 21 Launches High-Capacity Fixed Wireless Network with BridgeWave's FlexPort™ Product

### STAR 21 NETWORKS

Star21 Networks, established in 2000, is a leading provider of network services in the Czech Republic offering wholesale communications services to operators and service providers of telephone, data and Internet connectivity. The company operates one of the largest Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) networks in the licensed 26 and 28 GHz frequency bands in the Czech Republic and, as a result, is systematically looking to invest in further development of its FWA network with the most advanced point-to-multipoint and point-to-point wireless technologies.

According to Akamai's 2009 Q3 State of the Internet report, the Czech Republic ranks among the 10 fastest countries in the world for broadband internet speeds, experiencing 23 percent year-over-year growth in 2009. This means expectations for provisioning new broadband services are elevated, making high-capacity backhaul crucial in meeting the Czech market's demanding expectations for broadband-related phone, data and internet service.



To best support their current and future needs, Star 21 researched the products that would optimize network performance to deliver increased broadband internet speeds. As end user mobile demand expands, STAR 21 is committed to supplying high-capacity backhaul critical to mobile operators.

### THE CHALLENGE

Seeing significant business potential, STAR 21 Networks needed a network infrastructure solution that provided high-capacity backhaul while simultaneously supporting both legacy TDM voice traffic and increasing amounts of IP traffic. The challenge was to find a solution that would allow them to quickly address their customers' accelerating bandwidth needs.

Assessing its options, Star 21 found that lower frequency wireless solutions did not offer true gigabit capacities and posed long licensing and deployment delays. Further, significant fees to operate radios in the licensed frequency bands were not attractive. Fiber was initially the preferred choice, but was later ruled out because of high costs and lengthy commissioning intervals.

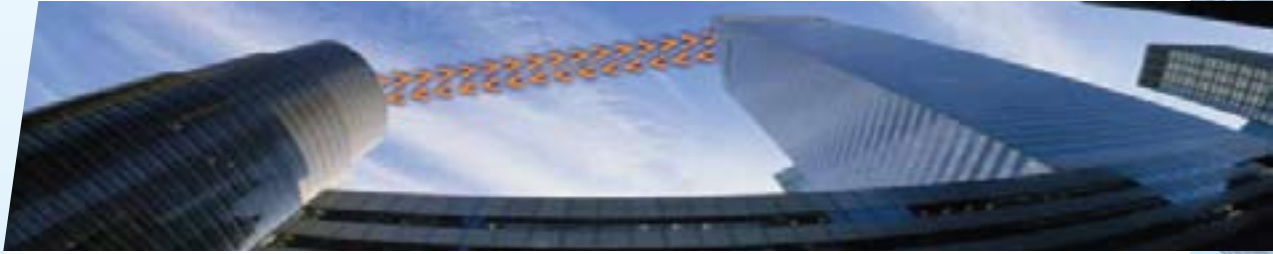
*"We have a competitive advantage with BridgeWave's FlexPort because of its performance, plus it was designed to grow with our network as our company continues to expand."*

Richard Pinc  
CEO  
Star 21 Networks



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Star 21 was looking for a reliable solution that would address the following issues:

- Provide high-capacity wireless connectivity to support TDM and IP services seamlessly
- Deploy quickly in comparison to fiber
- Ability to keep costs down while still meeting end user demands
- Alleviate service provider capacity concerns

## THE SOLUTION

STAR 21 chose BridgeWave's FlexPort because of the 80 GHz product's ability to provide full-rate, full-duplex gigabit-plus speeds and simultaneous transmission of legacy SDH traffic, while offering carrier-class features such as frequency agility, Adaptive Rate and Modulation, and advanced network management.

*"BridgeWave's FlexPort was deployed within a matter of days – it was up and running within an incredibly quick time frame! FlexPort is the perfect solution to help us address our customers' growing bandwidth needs. We can now support both TDM voice and IP traffic."*



Using BridgeWave's links proved to be a cost-effective approach for STAR 21 because, as demand expands, a simple software upgrade is all that is needed to unlock more capacity. This allows STAR 21 to efficiently utilize capital resources by purchasing only what is required today but instantly upgrading network capacity as needed for future growth.

## BENEFITS

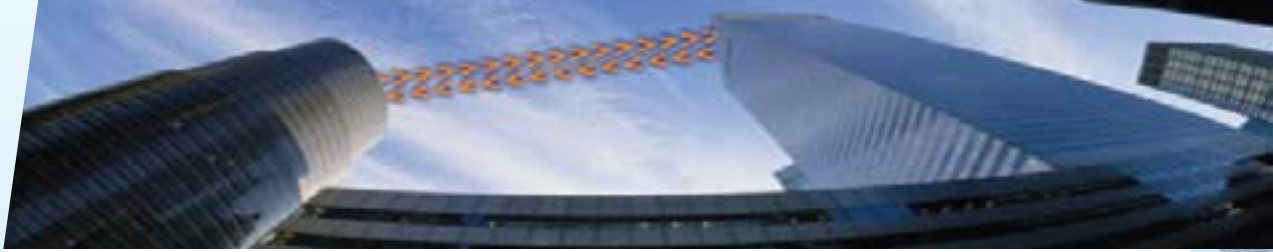
Soon after deployment, Star 21 recognized that FlexPort's versatility was one of the key benefits, as it can be used in any part of the network – the core, backhaul, access and point-to-point connectivity – while still remaining easy to install and manage. Star 21 found its engineers liked the overall design of the FlexPort radios, specifically the ease of installation which allowed for new radios to be up and running in a matter of days.

Consequently, Star 21 has the ability to expand any part of its network as bandwidth needs evolve as well as provision service to customers faster without dealing with licensing fees. This offers customers a distinct advantage over the fiber alternative as fiber in the Czech Republic is not only an expensive and time intensive, but also generally hard to come by.



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With the deployment of FlexPort's high-capacity backhaul links, Star 21 can provide their customers the capacity needed for today's network traffic and a future-proof solution that will easily grow with their needs.

Pleased with FlexPort's performance and functionality, Star 21 plans to increase the number of FlexPort links in their network to continue offering their customers reliable network services at competitive prices.

*"BridgeWave allows us to have an edge in today's market by building networks that enable us to easily meet customer demand for triple play services like video, voice or data," said Pavel Hala, CTO at Star 21.*

**CUSTOMER:** Star 21 Networks, <http://www.star21.cz/en/>

**INDUSTRY:** Network Service Provider/Operator

**CHALLENGES:** Sought high-capacity backhaul that simultaneously supported both legacy TDM voice traffic and increasing amounts of IP traffic.

**SOLUTION:** BridgeWave FlexPort 80 GHz

**BENEFITS:**

- Rapid installation enables quicker revenue generation
- Provides a carrier-class solution that supports legacy TDM and next-gen network IP traffic
- Cost-effective fiber-equivalent performance
- Scalability with customers' needs via a simple software upgrade



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