

## Press Clipping

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# RCom buys UK WiMAX operator eWave World

Our Bureau  
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**R**ELIANCE Communications (RCom) has acquired UK-based eWave World, which offers wireless telephony services using WiMAX technology, for an undisclosed amount. The acquisition was made through RCom's subsidiary for global operations, Reliance Globalcom. It will be funded through internal accruals, Reliance Globalcom CEO Punit Garg told reporters in Mumbai on Thursday.

"We have taken a gigantic step in the broadband direction and looked at 4G WiMAX to be the next step in our global aspirations," he said. WiMAX refers to high-speed internet access over a wireless connection. It is often called a fourth generation (4G) technology, an improvement over the third generation (3G) services. The main thrust of 4G technologies is to provide high-speed, high-bandwidth, packetised data communications.

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### HIGH NETWORK

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eWave holds WiMAX licences and has received spectrum to commence services in several countries. The acquisition will help RCom gain access to airwaves and licences to operate the WiMAX services in several countries, including China, he said.

"4G WiMAX networks in 50 countries would enable us to offer services to over 75% of global population in combination with Reliance Globalcom's 1,15,000 km IP (internet protocol) enabled network spread across six continents," Mr Garg said.

The commercial launch of the WiMAX services would begin by this year-end and by 2009-end, the company aims to roll out its network in close to 20 countries.

This is the second overseas investment by Reliance ADA Group in WiMAX technology. Reliance Technology Ventures (RTVL), a subsidiary of RCom, picked up a stake in French WiMAX chip maker Sequans late last year.

eWave World also has a JV in China, under which the company co-owns and operates 36,000 km of optic fibre across top 30 cities in China. This JV firm has applied for a nationwide broadband licence in China.

