

## **Boston Launches Free, Advertiser-Supported Metro Wi-Fi**

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With a goal of promoting economic rejuvenation, the project was organized by the City of Boston's Office of Business Development. It is currently being piloted in four commercial districts throughout the city: Hyde Park; Roslindale; Washington Gateway; and West Roxbury. The access is free of charge and is supported by advertising revenue. It is designed to serve as an example of how Wi-Fi can be supplied to citizens free of usage charges and free of taxpayer burden, and is a result of a 2004 feasibility study commissioned by City Councilor John Tobin.

"As cities around the nation consider their Wi-Fi options, there is ongoing discussion about the taxpayer burden surrounding metro Wi-Fi deployments," said Wallace Olsen, principal of Ascio Wireless.

"Technology partners such as Airpath give us the flexibility to integrate advertising into sign-on and other pages, which generates the revenue to support the project. It's a winning situation for vendors, end users and the city."

Airpath Wireless, Inc. and Ascio Wireless, New England's implementer of fixed wireless solutions, today announced that Ascio will use Airpath's WiBOSS Metro solution for administration and control of their "Boston Main Streets" public Wi-Fi project.

WiBOSS Metro is a hosted, hardware-neutral platform that enables wireless Internet service providers and system integrators to deploy and manage Internet access service for city deployments. It performs all critical business tasks for network operators and service providers such as subscriber management, provisioning, authentication, authorization, accounting, and report generation, within a single application. Full customer care support for providers and end users is available via Airpath's 24x7x365 customer care facility. Airpath partner Colubris Networks, a global provider of multiservice Wireless LAN (WLAN) systems for enterprises and service providers, supplied access points for the deployment, including several InMotion Multiservice Controllers (MSC-3300).

"Airpath is pleased to be partnering with Ascio Wireless and helping them support the Boston Main Streets initiative," said Olivia Hecht, Airpath director of marketing. "The businesses in many cities and towns are devising new, creative approaches for providing wireless broadband services to end users, enhancing services for consumers and improving foot traffic and overall business conditions for commercial areas. This program has businesses and the community thinking outside of the box."