

digital review

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Inexpensive microwave Ethernet bridge replaces T1 links

By Eric Smalley

BRAINTREE, Mass. — Microwave Bypass Systems has unveiled a low-cost version of its microwave Ethernet bridge that is designed to take local phone companies out of the data communications business.

Etherwave II gives users a means to establish a point-to-point link between remote Ethernet networks for less than \$30,000, said David Theodore, Microwave Bypass Systems' president.

An increasing number of users are looking for alternatives to telecommunications systems for wide area networking. (See "Do-it-yourself communications links on the rise," DR, April 16, page 9.)

Etherwave II includes a microwave link, a microwave-to-Ethernet interface and Ethernet bridges. The bridges perform packet filtering and learn node addresses on the network automatically, according to Theodore.

Critics of microwave technology

have charged that microwave links are susceptible to weather and can be knocked out by rainfall.

"Microwave is not susceptible to rain. Only the wrong system, improperly installed and configured, will be problematic in the rain," Theodore said.

Etherwave II is available now. A turnkey system is priced at \$26,000. Installation charges are separate.

Microwave Bypass Systems Inc. can be contacted at 25 Braintree Hill Park, Braintree, MA 02184, (617) 843-8260.