

TelEm Group Officially Launches 3G-Plus Network with Donation of Computer Labs to St. Maarten Public Schools

24 October, 2011 Joe Dominique – Island News, St. Maarten

Vocational School in South Reward and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School, in Dutch Quarter are the two schools presented with certificates to receive Hewlett Packard MultiSeat ms6000 Desktop Server systems courtesy of Canadian consulting firm WireE in collaboration with TelEm Group.

The presentations were made at the Holland House Hotel, Frontstreet, Friday evening during the official launch of TelEm Group's new 3G-Plus voice and mobile data network, by TelEm Group Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Mrs. Helma Etnel and 3G project manager for WireE, Mr. Curt De Gourville. Mrs. Etnel said public schools last year received free high-speed DSL internet connections from TelEm Group to improve learning resources in the classroom. "As a good corporate citizen we have recognized the need to provide telecommunication and technology support to the public schools in any way we can," said Mrs. Etnel. She said this latest initiative with WireE will build on what the company began several years ago as a company mission to bridge the local digital divide by making internet access available to the broad range of people in the St. Maarten community.

The computer labs were officially presented to the Government of St. Maarten on behalf of the schools, which were represented by Mr. Vernon Richards and two fellow school members of the Vocational School, and by Ms. Silveria Jacobs, School Manager of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School, located in Dutch Quarter. Also present at the donation ceremony, were Information and Communication Technology Coordinator for public schools, Mr. Daison Marks, Head of Public Schools Services Division, Mrs. Glendoline Davis-Holiday and Coordinator for the TelEm Group Internet for Schools Program Ms. Margarita Hodge.

Mr. Marks said the schools computer service department is currently proposing a new program to advance the use of instructional technology for curriculum development across the range of public schools on the island. "The thin client computers fit perfectly into our plans for the schools and could not have come at a better time," said Mr. Marks.

WireE representative Mr. Curt De Gourville said the Canadian-based company is very pleased that St. Maarten is now the third country in the Caribbean to benefit from its Connect the Caribbean Program started in 2009 in collaboration with the Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations (CANTO). Other islands that have benefited include Grenada and Dominica.

Mr. De Gourville said the computer labs have been specially ordered and will be arriving on St. Maarten during the course of next week. Officials of the company plan to visit along with HP installation experts



Two St. Maarten public schools are recipients of stand-alone computer labs to mark the official launch of TelEm Groups new 3G Plus voice and mobile data network.

to ensure the computers are correctly installed and also to introduce themselves to the recipient schools. Included in the lab package is software and licencing plans along with maintenance when required from certified HP technicians.

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In Photo; School Manager of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School, Dutch Quarter, Ms. Silveria Jacobs, (2nd left) and Head of the Vocational School, South Reward, Mr. Vernon Jacobs (centre) received 3G packages from TelEm Group and a computer lab each for their respective schools from WireE, a Canadian-based consulting firm represented by Mr. Curt De Gourville (right) during a 3G launch ceremony Friday evening. Also pictured are Head of Public Schools, Services Division, Mrs. Glendoline Davis-Holiday (left) and Information and Communication Technology Coordinator for public schools, Mr. Daison Marks (2nd right).