

# Netpower wins \$250m China deal

It will provide wireless LAN at 4,000 locations in the country

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SINGAPORE-based Netpower International, an Internet solutions company, has won a US\$150-million (\$250-million) contract to develop the largest wireless local area network (WLAN) in China.

The contract, awarded by Great Wall Broadband Network Service (GWBN) will cover about 4,000 locations in the country by 2008, Netpower said in a statement yesterday.

Netpower International's technology will enable GWBN, China's fourth-largest fixed line operator, to deliver high-speed data, advanced voice and video services through the wireless network.

"Our NetZone Wireless solution allows GWBN to introduce new revenue generating services into its product portfolio and provide a platform for the growth in wireless mobility and connectivity," said

Mr Alan Matthews, chief executive of Netpower International.

Rollout of the technology will start in Wuhan, China, next month, focusing on major hotels, commercial buildings and universities, the company said.

GWBN said the establishment of its own wireless network would let it take advantage of the growth in mobile communication and prepare for the increase in voice over Internet protocol solutions.

Upon completion, the rollout will create the largest hotspot network in China, enabling GWBN users to roam anywhere in China with a single username and password. Visitors to China can also access the network via Netpower International's roaming technology.

Netpower is one of the beneficiaries of the Economic Development Board's Seeds fund, which provides equity financing in the early stages of a company's development.