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Auckland City Wi-Fi Goes Live

Auckland, New Zealand:- Fast, affordable broadband took a major step forward today with the launch of the Auckland City Wi-Fi service across seven key zones of the Auckland CBD and fringe.

Auckland City Wi-Fi is the result of a public-private partnership between the Auckland City Council; Kordia, one of New Zealand's leading providers of broadcast and telecommunications networks, and network services; and Tomizone, Australasia's largest provider of Wi-Fi services.

"Auckland is the first city in New Zealand to launch this unique and comprehensive Wi-Fi service. We are delighted that Auckland City Wi-Fi is up and running just in time to welcome the America's Cup Louis Vuitton Pacific Series, which kicks off in the City of Sails next week.

"This is a unique business model that we have facilitated with Kordia and more recently, Tomizone," says Councillor Aaron Bhatnagar, Chair of the City Development Committee at Auckland City, and the driving force behind this initiative.

Today, the Wi-Fi zone includes Aotea Square, Karangahape Road, Ponsonby, Remuera, and Parnell, as well as the Viaduct Basin and Westhaven.

Users can access fast wireless internet within the coverage zone, simply and affordably at speeds of 2 Mbps or more. Rates to use the service are \$3 per hour, \$6.50 per day or \$30 per week, with users paying as they go.

"In our experience, this service utilises world's best practice to deliver sustainable Wi-Fi services in a city-wide environment," says Tomizone CEO, Steve Simms.

"The Auckland City Wi-Fi initiative draws on the experience, and the specialised capability, of each of its three partners to deliver an open access network that provides

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users with the flexibility and affordability they demand. We've seen models like this working really well in other countries such as Singapore," he says.

Auckland City Wi-Fi coverage also includes Westhaven Marina, one of the largest boating marinas - and now the largest marina Wi-Fi zone - in the Southern Hemisphere.

Syndicates, spectators and other users at Westhaven Marina and the Viaduct Basin will get fast wireless internet and a portable log-on, without the binding contracts often associated with this kind of service.

Kordia CEO Geoff Hunt is pleased with progress. "Kordia has been working with the team since the inception of this project. This demonstrates what good public-private partnerships can bring to bear and we are pleased to be part of this ground-breaking initiative in Auckland," says Hunt.

"Our remit was to provide the infrastructure to build a 'connected city', and use better broadband - and better access to broadband - to improve the economic development of Auckland. This is New Zealand's most intricate mesh Wi-Fi network - we have really set the benchmark with this initiative," says Hunt.

- ENDS -

For more information, please contact:

Emma Morrison, Kordia Communications and Brand Manager
+64 21 916 647 / emma.morrison@kordia.co.nz / www.kordia.co.nz

Emmanuel Hooson, General Manager - Affiliates, Tomizone
+64 21 558 489 / emmanuel@tomizone.com / www.tomizone.com

Angelika Doughty, Media Communications Manager, Auckland City Council
+64 27 474 3695

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About Auckland City Wi-Fi

Auckland City Wi-Fi is a public-private partnership bringing together Auckland City Council, Tomizone and Kordia, leveraging the unique capabilities of all parties to deliver a leading-edge Wi-Fi service.

About Kordia

Kordia is an experienced trans-Tasman business, and is fast-becoming one of the region's leading providers of customised broadcast and telecommunications networks, and network services.

Kordia owns one of the largest telecommunications networks in New Zealand and is the major provider of television and radio broadcast facilities. In Australia, Kordia provides design, build and maintenance services to the broadcast and mobile telecommunications sectors as well as engineering services throughout the region.

Kordia's business is built on creating harmonisation – the ability to meld customers' ideas into an operating reality, managing convergence in technology in today's fast moving world.

The name Kordia comes from the Latin 'accordia' meaning harmony – bringing people and technology together as one.

About Tomizone

Tomizone is a global company headquartered in Auckland, New Zealand with offices in Sydney and Bangalore and is the largest provider of Wi-Fi Hotspots in Australasia with over 8,500 Hotspots and Wi-Fi Zones in the region.

Tomizone provides partnered Wi-Fi Hotspot and Wi-Fi Zone solutions in the Consumer, Small Business, Enterprise and Service Provider sectors utilising the Tomizone Proprietary Billing Service Platform which governs Internet usage and payments. Tomizone enabled Wi-Fi Access Point hardware lets anyone share a broadband connection securely and make money from it by becoming a Tomizone Hotspot or Wi-Fi Zone.