

1.2 Public Network Growth

The Struggle to Meet Demand

VNPT wants to increase service availability in less developed areas, and rural radio is seen as a primary vehicle. Trunk capacity is reaching a temporarily satisfactory level between the main communications hubs of Hanoi, Danang and Ho Chi Minh. More emphasis is being placed on developing spur routes off the existing microwave and fiber backbones.

In favor of rural-oriented equipment suppliers, the central authorities are taking a "universal service" view of network development. Rural technologies, TDMA radio systems and PBX systems to serve as small rural public switches, are given a high priority as the DGPT attempts to boost teledensity in the villages as well as the city.

Trunk transmission routes are also being overhauled. The 34Mb/s optical fibre route from Hanoi to HCM City is complete. The parallel 140Mb/s route is complete to Nha Trang, and will have reached HCM City by the end of 1993, with continuing routes into the Mekong Delta provinces in 1994.

Optical Fibre links are planned from HCM City to Vung Tau, as well as from Hanoi to Quang Ninh. In the northern provinces surrounding Hanoi, 2, 4, and 8 Mb/s DMW spur routes are planned in a star arrangement from the capital. PBXs over rural exchanges will be deployed in the short term to provide switching service in the townships and villages.

By the end of 1995, VNPT has one clearly stated goal: to increase teledensity to 1%, from its current 0.4%. End 1993 will see approximately 300,000 lines in service, the vast majority of those lines serviced by digital exchanges. HCM City has 60,000 lines, Hanoi 50,000, Danang 10,000. Nationwide development calls for around 450,000 additional lines in the next 2 years.

