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Telecoms Equipment Firms Expedite Commercialization Of IPv6

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By Choi Jeong-hun & Hong Ki-beom

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Boosted by government support and early adoption by communication carriers, domestic equipment makers, large and small, and research organizations are accelerating development of equipment needed for deployment of the next-generation Internet address system, IPv6.

According to industry sources, communication equipment makers, including Samsung Electronics, LG Electronics, Locus, iBIT, Mercury and AddPac Technology, and research organization such as the Electronics and Telecommunication Research Institute (ETRI) are developing small and medium-sized routers, home routers, trunk gateways, access gateways, VoIP, and wireless access points. These firms are expected to begin rolling out products next month.

As a part of IT836 strategy, the Ministry of Information and Communication implemented first phase pilot project of KOREAv6 last year, and it plans to conduct second phase pilot service this year to foster adoption of IPv6 technologies and energize the new communication service.

Communication carriers such as KT, Dacom, Hanaro Telecom, SK Telecom, KTF and LG Telecom are beginning to install gears for IPv6 service.

With a goal to commercialize it in June, the ETRI is now finalizing the development of medium-sized routers. The institute is also developing a variety of IPv6-related gears such as home gateway, home server, next-generation Internet server, gear linking VPN with IPv4, NMS, AAav6 certification server, and WiBro equipment.

Comtec Systems and LG Electronics plan to roll out medium-sized routers in July and December this year, respectively. AddPac Technology, iBIT, Mercury, Dasan Networks and LAN Bird plan to launch small routers in June, and will participate in interoperability tests to be carried out in July jointly by the National Computerization Agency and the Telecommunication Technology Agency.

Snet Systems, Mercury, Locus and the ETRI are expected to develop home routers by June, Moimstone, Samsung Electronics and AddPac Technology will commercialize by the end of this year VoIP gears such as IP phones, TG, AG, IPBX and IMS.

In addition, Fumate, iBIT, WIZnet, Modacom, Snet and Future System intend to develop wireless access points and VPNv6 by September.

Telecommunication service providers intend to accommodate IPv6 equipment in their premium networks this year. KT already installed 2 units of large dual stack routers to accommodate IPv6 functions and began upgrading platform of routers. Dacom is mulling over installing 12 units of large dual stack routers in the first half. Hanaro Telecom also began upgrading equipment to adopt dual stack.

Wireless communication carriers, ST Telecom, KTF and LG Telecom, also plan to adopt dual stacks in their WiBro networks to accommodate IPv6 functions, and begin to invest in IPv6 equipment next year.

"The development of most IPv6 gears is anticipated to be completed by the end of this year. The size of the market will be decided by support of the government and communication operators," said an industry observer

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