News Release

26 February 2015

**Cobham Wireless TM500 network tester enhances 4G user experience by accelerating coordinated HetNets**

**TM500 family is first network test system to support LTE-A Release 11 CoMP, improving cell-edge performance in heterogeneous networks**

**STEVENAGE, UK** – Cobham Wireless, formerly Aeroflex wireless business unit, has announced that the TM500 network tester family is helping mobile operators to accelerate the deployment of high capacity networks. Already supporting key LTE-A features such as carrier aggregation of two and three component carriers, TDD/FDD carrier aggregation, and eICIC, the TM500 now also supports Coordinated Multipoint transmission/reception (CoMP), a major feature of 3GPP LTE-A Release 11.

Where carriers are deploying small cells, they often do not deliver the expected user experience and this is slowing HetNet deployment. One of the primary reasons for users seeing a degraded quality of service with HetNets is poor cell-edge performance due to the lack of traffic coordination and interference management between small cells and macrocells.

The Cobham Wireless TM500 is already addressing cell-edge interference issues with eICIC (Enhanced Inter-cell Interference Coordination), empowering mobile network operators to achieve better overall network capacity. With the addition of CoMP it will go one step further, by coordinating transmission and reception between different transmitting and receiving cells. It achieves this through the use of load balancing, coordinated scheduling, and the management of signal power and interference. In the downlink, each mobile terminal sees improved data throughput, especially near the cell edges, due to reduced interference and an increase in received power. Similarly, for the uplink, received signal quality and cell edge coverage is improved by simultaneous coordinated reception from different receiving points on the network side.

“CoMP offers enormous benefits to network operators, but it is very challenging both to configure and to validate,” said Nicola Logli, product manager at Cobham Wireless. “It requires tight synchronization among multiple transmitting and receiving points. The TM500
network tester can emulate and validate realistic CoMP usage scenarios in both uplink and downlink. It enables operators and vendors to perform lab and field trials incorporating realistic performance tests for this powerful new LTE-A feature. This helps them maximize throughput in their HetNet deployments, and improve user experience under challenging cell edge and interference conditions.”

Cobham Wireless maintains its leading-edge technology position by providing the tools that enable network infrastructure vendors and operators to roll out the high capacity and data rate services promised by the latest releases of the 3GPP LTE-A standard.

**About Cobham**

*Cobham* protects lives and livelihoods with its differentiated technology and know-how, operating with a deep insight into customer needs, and agility. The Group offers an innovative range of technologies and services to solve challenging problems in harsh environments across commercial, defence and security markets, from deep space to the depths of the ocean, specialising in meeting the growing demand for data, connectivity and bandwidth.

Employing more than 12,000 people on five continents, the Group has customers and partners in more than 100 countries, with market leading positions in: wireless, audio, video and data communications, including satellite communications; defence electronics; air-to-air refuelling; aviation services; life support and mission equipment.

**About Cobham Wireless**

*Cobham Wireless* is a global leader in test and measurement and advanced network validation, with a range of products that includes: stand-alone and modular RF and wireless test instruments; IP traffic emulation and NFV solutions; and ATE systems for electronics production.

The Cobham Wireless LTE market-leading product line includes a complete range of end-to-end test systems that cover R&D, performance, service, and manufacturing test applications for LTE-A TDD and FDD network equipment and terminals. Cobham Wireless is also a founding member of the 5GIC (5G Innovation Centre) technology research program led by the University of Surrey in the UK.

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