

By ~~March 2008~~ Botezatu, Hardware Editor

Asustek, T-Mobile to Offer Internet Access for the Eee PC

The bad news is that it will come in paid packages

Asustek has announced a strategic partnership with mobile telephony provider T-Mobile that will result in the release on the market of attractive all-in-one packages comprised of ASUS notebooks and high-speed mobile technology with a convenient price tag. The new partnership between the two companies is alleged to create new mobility standards, celebrated by the availability of the first package that will become available at the end of March. The two companies will bring mobile Internet closer to the Eee PC users via a package containing the EeePC 4G ultra-mobile notebook and 300 free WLAN hours at T-Mobile HotSpots bundled with the "first generation of mobile Internet devices". T-Mobile currently has more than 8,000 HotSpot locations in Germany alone, placed in hotels, restaurants, airports, stations and high-speed InterCity Express (ICE) trains. The cost of a 300-hour package will reach EUR 299 alone. However, Asustek and T-Mobile will release some other mobile Internet access packages during the next few weeks. The new packages will include HSDPA/UMTS USB modems the size of a flash drive, that will also be available as pre- or post-paid options. "Anyone who opts to buy an ASUS EeePC wants first and foremost a compact, easy-to-use device for fast, easy, mobile Internet access," explains Eric Chen, General Manager Europe and CEO of ASUS Deutschland. "The T-Mobile HotSpot bundle enables EeePC users to surf the Internet for one hour almost every day of the year wireless at any T-Mobile HotSpot in Germany. We anticipate that this cooperation will help us to address a new target group for the EeePC." "The Eee PC is extremely portable and can easily be fitted inside one's purse or even coat pocket. It weighs only 920 grams and has the size of an A5 notebook with a 7-inch display. "For mobile Internet, an attractive mobile device like the EeePC, together with mobile broadband connectivity from T-Mobile networks is perfect for surfing the Net, chatting and sending e-mails. We also expect it to attract business customers who are looking for a second device. We are glad to see ASUS and T-Mobile setting new standards with this customer-oriented package," claimed Michael Wilkens, Executive Vice President Sales Channel Development T-Mobile International.