Move prompts $1m VoIP rollout
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The Australian
SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

THE NSW Department of Primary Industry has rolled out a $1 million voice over IP network understood to be one of the largest deployed by the state so far. The switch to packet-based system was prompted by a move by the Mineral Resources division's move from Sydney to Maitland in the Hunter region, the divisional ITS manager Mike Webster said. The move, along with the consolidation of the departments of Mineral resources, Agriculture, Fisheries and State Forest into primary industries in July, prompted Minerals to standardise on browser-based applications, Mr Webster said. "Over time, running our communications and business services over a converged IP-enabled network will help us lower operating costs and accelerate service delivery," Mr Webster said, adding that improved availability of broadband in regional areas had allowed IP communications to go mainstream. For its VoIP network, the Department opted for a Nortel system installed by CSC. The project covers the new Maitland headquarters and 14 other regional offices, as well as links to servers housed at the Australian Centre for Advanced Computing and Communications (AC3) data centre in inner-Sydney Redfern.