



News Release Date: 2011.07.05

They reached a fiber optics network of 160,000 kilometers, upgrading Turkey to the 'Terabit' league

Hanife BAŞ / Hürriyet

Landline operator Türk Telekom increased Turkey's outgoing Internet speed by 40-fold thanks to its acquisition of the infrastructure company Pantel a year ago. Thanks to Pantel, which boasts a fiber optics network of 27,000 kilometers across 16 European countries, the outgoing capacity has increased from 650 Gigabits to 1,200 Gigabits (1.2 Terabits). Thus, users will be able to have seamless and faster access to the most popular foreign websites in Turkey including MSN, Google, Facebook, and Youtube even at times of heavy Internet traffic. At a meeting held in Budapest, Hungary, where Pantel's head office is situated, Türk Telekom's international voice and data carriage operations as well as the new commercial video featuring Cem Yılmaz were presented.

We are now in the upper league

Türk Telekom CEO Gökhan Bozkurt said: "In Turkey, too, we have increased the rate of fiber optics networks by 40 percent. The total length of our fiber optics networks in Turkey and the world is 160,000 kilometers. We are upgrading Turkey to the Terabit league from the Gigabit league. We have increased our outgoing Internet capacity from 30 Gigabits in 2005 to 1,200 Gigabits in 2011."

9.3 billion TL in investments

Underlining that monthly use in Turkey has reached 16.7 Gigabits in 2011, Bozkurt continued: "And this means a boost of 135 percent over two years. Video and data use has increased. We have invested TL 9.3 billion in the infrastructure in Turkey. We have managed to carry Turkey to a significant position on the Internet. In infrastructure, Pantel has further added on to our speed. We have become the fiber optics center of the region."

We can make acquisitions should opportunities arise

Responding to a question as to whether they would make further acquisitions, Gökhan Bozkurt said: “We can take advantage of the acquisition opportunities in line with our strategy. Why not, should there be an appropriate strategy and price? We feel the competition in our bones. Everywhere that voice and data passes is competition for us.”

We always favor freedom on the Internet

Türk Telekom CEO Gökhan Bozkurt, who has noted that the outgoing Internet speed has been increased 40-fold over the last 6 years, said: “Our fiber optics network has reached 160,000 kilometers in Turkey and in the world. We are upgrading Turkey to the Terabit league from the Gigabit league. In 2011, we have increased our outgoing Internet speed to 1.2 Terabits.”

U.S. firms request our services

Türk Telekom Group CEO Hakam Kanafani notes that they provide services to 20 different nations in Europe and continues: “Pantel has 14 subsidiaries in 14 European countries. American and Japanese firms that want to operate in Europe also request services from Pantel.

Earning millions of dollars without an office

Underlining that there are hundreds of firms that want to come to Turkey. Türk Telekom Group CEO Hakam Kanafani said: “Companies such as Google and Youtube are at the door, wanting to join the market. However, there are things that Google and Youtube should also do. They must act in accordance with the laws. They don’t even have a proper office in Turkey. But they are earning millions of dollars.” Türk Telekom Group CEO Hakam Kanafani also commented on the debate regarding filtering the Internet and censorship: “Nobody needs to support or oppose the government in order to be fair and objective. My clients are my principal concern. We must always act in accordance with the laws. We hesitate a bit in expressing our opinions. But we also express our opinions. There are things that must be done by the government. However, companies such as Google and Youtube cannot dictate their terms, either. After all, we are

always in favor of freedom on the Internet. We are against limitations.”

Pantel: We will extend our reach to new countries through Türk Telekom

Pantel CEO Gregg Betz, who said that they had started 13 years ago as an alternative telecom operator in Hungary, adds that they have expanded to Bulgaria, Ukraine, Serbia and Romania. He said: “Reaching also to Turkey was always our goal. Now, our target is to reach new countries through Türk Telekom. We want to provide services to customers in the Middle East, Caucasus and beyond.”

Yılmaz: “We checked if there is a line passing across the Adriatic and the Alps”

At the meeting held in Budapest, Türk Telekom’s public face in commercials, Cem Yılmaz said regarding his relations with the company: “They acquired Pantel. I cannot provide so many services as Pantel, so they only leased me.” Cem Yılmaz said the following on the new commercial video: “At the commercial, we said, who would know Cem Yılmaz once he crosses Edirne. This was indeed so. They didn’t recognize me at the Budapest Airport. We really checked if “There have been any investments? Is there a line that crosses from the Adriatic to the Alps?”