

2000-08-04

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Press Release :Utfors appoints Managing Director for Norwegian operations

Utfors has appointed Jan Søgaaard as Managing Director of Utfors in Norway.

Jan Søgaaard was born 21 March 1962. He comes to Utfors from a position as Country Manager/National Sales Director at Nortel Networks.

The operations will initially be concentrated in the Oslo region, which is being incorporated into Utfors's Nordic broadband network. Utfors's operations in Norway will, like in Sweden, primarily cater to businesses, municipalities and authorities via Utfors's IP port.

Utfors's IP-Port is a true broadband-based, high-speed service that allows businesses, municipalities and authorities access to simplified datacoms and telecoms solutions. Utfors's IP-Port connects up to Utfors's broadband network and enables customers to get equally high capacity between offices, out onto the Internet or within the office at unbeatably low prices. The IP-Port also allows customers to make considerable savings in the form of simpler administration, fault tracing and support. The IP port is supplied in capacities 2 to 1,000 Mbit/s, and they are not overbooked, which means no bottlenecks on the Internet.

It is common today for organisations to have different connections to the Internet between geographically separate offices and telephone switches, etc. Utfors IP-Port is a technical solution, which allows companies to run all their telecoms and datacoms traffic via one single connection.

"Utfors is taking its first strategic step into the Norwegian market. I am delighted that Jan Søgaaard, with his solid expertise, will be at the helm of our Norwegian operations," commented Utfors's Managing Director, Jan Werne.

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Utfors AB is a leading Nordic datacoms and telecoms operator with its own infrastructure, supplying IP (Internet Protocol) based high-speed services to companies and private customers in the Nordic region. In 2000, Utfors will be completing a 6,000 km long broadband network for data and telephony that will connect 75 of the largest cities in Sweden, as well as Oslo, Copenhagen, other major Danish cities and Helsinki. Utfors employs approximately 240 people in Stockholm, Uppsala, Gothenburg and Överkalix and currently has over 250,000 telephony and Internet customers. Utfors AB's principal owners are Norsk Vekst and Litorina Kapital, as well as a number of institutional investors.