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Motorsport: A1GP Shanghai, China results April 15, 2007

A1 Team New Zealand has won the feature race at the A1 Grand Prix in Shanghai, China today, followed by A1 Team Great Britain and A1 Team Germany. The third place win for Germany has secured the 2006/2007 championship.

In qualifying for the sprint race, Great Britain's driver Robbie Kerr managed to secure the pole position with the fastest lap time recorded this weekend. New Zealand's driver, Jonny Reid, started in second position, narrowly missing out on what would have been his third pole position of the season. Third and fourth place starters are the United States and Germany respectively.

Great Britain managed to win the sprint race, thus securing a first place start in the feature race. During the entire sprint race, Great Britain were the leaders, with a "comfortable" lead, always maintaining their position in front of New Zealand. Germany replaced America, becoming the third place sprint-race winners.

During the feature race Jonny Reid, driving New Zealand's Black Beauty car, passed Great Britain on lap number 16 of the 50-lap race.



Great Britain's A1GP car.



New Zealand's Black Beauty car in the middle.

New Zealand's telecommunications ranks low in OECD April 16, 2007

The New Zealand Commerce Commission, who promote competition in the New Zealand market, have released a report today that has shown that New Zealand's telecommunications sector is very expensive compared to other OECD countries.

In the report, the Commerce Commission ranks various call plans, both cellular and landline, with other

similar plans in the OECD.

United Kingdom company, Teligen did the data gathering in November 2006. All prices exclude G.S.T. (Goods and Services Tax).

The following data is for low mobile user plans. One of Vodafone's mobile phone plan titled Vodafone Base 20 costs NZ\$299.54 annually, which was given a rank of 22 out of the other 30 OECD countries. One of Telecom's plan titled Telecom FLEXI Mytime costs \$336.11 annually, and is ranked 26. Another Vodafone plan, Motormouth Prepay costs \$386.85 which gives it a rank of 28. Telecom's Go Prepaid Mates' Rates plan costs the same amount as Vodafone's Motormouth and thus has the same rank. Note, some of the above plans are set contract plans, which means they must be subscribed to for a set amount of time, and have other restrictive terms.

The following data is for medium mobile user plans. Vodafone Base 60 costs an annual amount of \$598.01 which gives it a rank of 25. Vodafone Choose 60 + Your Time + TXT 100 costs \$660.94 each year, which gives it a rank of 27 internationally. Telecom's FLEXI Anytime costs \$811.29 with a rank of 29. Again, some of the plans above have restrictive terms and a set term contract.

The high user market plans follow. The Vodafone Choose 120 + Your Time 100 + TXT 100 costs \$886.56, which gives it a rank of 23. The

Telecom FLEXI Anytime plan is the most expensive in New Zealand costing \$1,368.63 each year. It is also ranked at the bottom of the OECD at 30.

The landline plans did not fare any better, or worse, than the mobile phone plans.

Outage leaves tens of thousands of New Zealanders without Internet April 18, 2007

An Internet outage in New Zealand has left tens of thousands of people without Internet access for over five hours after a planned upgrade crashed Telecom's servers.

Telecom, New Zealand's telecommunications monopolistic company, had planned for an upgrade to its network overnight but it didn't quite go to plan as their network crashed at around 4.00 a.m. (NZST) until around 11.00 a.m., when it was restored. Telecom has said that either customers lost their connection altogether, or could not access some websites.

The network outage also affected other ISP's who purchase their services off Telecom. Vodafone's ihug, TelstraClear, Slingshot, Callplus, Quicksilver, MaxNet, Woosh, World Exchange, ICONZ, and, of course, Xtra were all the affected ISPs.

Another network outage, again, left broadband subscribers without Internet for around 20 minutes, from 11.20 a.m. to 11.40 a.m..

The outage affected international and national websites, and e-mail services of both residential and some corporate customers.

Telecom says that they are still investigating the full reason for why

the outage occurred, but they do know it was related to a problem with a broadband router in Auckland.

Spokesperson, Sarah Berry has said that Telecom will consider compensation case by case for affected customers.

Some people still had limited Internet access though, including Wikinews reporter, Gabriel Pollard. Gabriel Pollard has said that he was able to access his Gmail account, some pages of Wikinews, and some pages would start to load but never finish. He described it as "painfully slow". Mr Pollard says that it took a while to log onto his work e-mail as their TelstraClear Internet connection wasn't working.

The network is still being monitored for any other problems that may arise.



Xtra, New Zealand ISP, sign. Photograph by Gabriel Pollard.

Compensation sought for New Zealand's Internet outage April 19, 2007

Wikinews reported previously on an Internet outage in New Zealand that lasted for over five hours. Telecom New Zealand, the company that owns and operates the "local loop", said that they will review compensation for its customers on a case-by-case basis.

A wholesale ISP is attempting to give its subscribers compensation for the outage. CallPlus says that it is asking

Telecom for the thousands of dollars it needs to pass on to its affected customers. They doubt Telecom will give them the money needed.

2007 Cricket World Cup: Australia vs New Zealand April 20, 2007

Australia has defeated New Zealand by 215 runs in the penultimate game of the Super 8 phase in the 2007 Cricket World Cup at Queen's Park, St. George's, Grenada.

Australia won the toss and elected to bat first.

Fall of wickets (AUS): 1-7 (Gilchrist, 1.1 ov), 2-144 (Ponting, 22.6 ov), 3-216 (Hayden, 32.4 ov), 4-233 (Clarke, 35.3 ov), 5-257 (Symonds, 40.1 ov), 6-334 (Hussey, 49.3 ov).

Did not bat: Nathan Bracken, Shaun Tait, Glenn McGrath.

Fall of wickets (NZL): 1-21 (Fleming, 3.3 ov), 2-29 (Taylor, 5.1 ov), 3-77 (Styris, 11.1 ov), 4-80 (McMillan, 12.3 ov), 5-89 (Franklin, 14.3 ov), 6-111 (McCullum, 19.3 ov), 7-117 (Vettori, 21.1 ov), 8-127 (Gillespie, 23.5 ov), 9-133 (Mason, 24.5 ov).

Australia: A C Gilchrist (wkt), M L Hayden, R T Ponting (capt), M J Clarke, A Symonds, M E K Hussey, S R Watson, G B Hogg, N W Bracken, S W Tait, G D McGrath.

New Zealand: P G Fulton, S P Fleming (capt), R L Taylor, S B Styris, C D McMillan, B B McCullum (wkt), D L Vettori, J E C Franklin, M R Gillespie, J S Patel, M J Mason.

Player of the match: M L Hayden.

Umpires: Aleem Dar (Pakistan) and Asad Rauf (Pakistan).

TV umpire: B R Doctrove (West Indies).

Match referee: M J Procter (South

Africa).

Reserve umpire: D J Harper
(Australia).

Full details of all Cricket World Cup matches are available online at en.wikinews.org.

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