

POSTAL NEWS

No. 80/2008

**Formulated by UNI-Japan Post in cooperation with UNI-Apro,
ASPEK Indonesia and SPPI**

- 1. U.S. Postal Service Awards Rivermine Telecom Expense Management Contract. June 16, 2008.**
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1. U.S. Postal Service Awards Rivermine Telecom Expense Management Contract

June 16, 2008

The U.S. Postal Service has awarded Rivermine, the leading provider of automated telecom expense management (TEM) solutions, a contract to deploy comprehensive TEM solutions for its entire data network nationwide. Rivermine will deliver its patent-pending solutions to automate the U.S. Postal Service's existing TEM processes. Rivermine helps organizations manage and optimize the full telecom life cycle including procurement and order management, invoice processing and auditing, inventory management, dispute management and reporting/analytics.

"Rivermine and the U.S. Postal Service share a common vision for an integrated end-to-end automated process from initial telecom service orders through invoice payment. We look forward to working with the U.S. Postal Service to achieve the highest level of visibility into and control over data network expenses - further reducing network costs," said Mark Logan, president and CEO, Rivermine.

The Rivermine solution will be used to help maintain a data network connecting approximately 400 distribution outlets and 37,000 retail locations. The U.S. Postal Service joins more than 225 companies and major government agencies that have also selected Rivermine.

For more information about Rivermine's government solutions, please visit www.rivermine.com/industries_gov.php.

About Rivermine:

Rivermine is a leading provider of automated, award-winning solutions that enable organizations to gain visibility into, and control over, their wireline and wireless telecom spend. More than 225 companies—including many Fortune 1000 corporations and large

government agencies—have selected Rivermine to optimize their overall telecom environments and dramatically reduce costs. These patent-pending Telecom Expense Management (TEM) solutions automate the entire telecom lifecycle including contract sourcing, ordering, inventory management, invoice processing and auditing, wireless device management and reporting/analytics. For more information, visit www.rivermine.com.

SOURCE: Rivermine

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Jun 16, 2008 10:36

2. Meretz MK asks Shas leader to fight communications minister on postal rates

By JUDY SIEGEL

Meretz MK Avshalom Vilan has asked Shas spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef to take Communications Minister (Shas) MK Ariel Atias to a rabbinical court for refusing to approve changes to postal rates, thereby triggering Israel Postal Company sanctions that harm the periphery.

Vilan said that the sanctions - which have halted mobile postal service to outlying areas, including communities under rocket fire from Gaza - and preventing collection of National Insurance Institute old-age and child allotments - are causing great distress.

The sanctions were instituted a week ago by the union of postal company workers, which fears that hundreds of employees will be dismissed because the company is losing money due to non-competitive bulk mail rates from private companies.

Postal Company director-general Avi Hochman has been struggling for a year against the Communications Ministry, which prefers to institute efficiency measures in the company to changes in postal rates. In addition to preventing mobile post office service and NII allocations, postal workers have also been refusing to change ownership of vehicles and to collect fees and value added taxes for the government.

Meanwhile, Hochman said Sunday that the new reform in bank fees "highlights again the need for an independent bank like the Postal Bank as an alternative to commercial banks. The reform deepens the social gap and harms the lower socioeconomic levels. I call on the government to finalize the Postal Bank Law and act to ensure that the Israel Postal Company's bank be able to function independently and allow customers to enjoy from competition in banking."

Although the reform "takes an important step forward" by cancelling many commercial bank fees, the new fees are high, Hochman said, thus costing bank customers more to manage their accounts. Some 180 different bank fees will be cancelled in July out of the total of 305, which apply to credit, debit cards, securities and regular checking accounts. The Israel Postal Bank charges no fees in many cases, and much lower ones than the commercial banks in others.

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