



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **ValuePoint Networks helps bring Internet to the Island of Niue**

*The company's popular rugged outdoor Wi-Fi products, already being used throughout the industrialized world, are finding their way to the far reaches of the globe.*

**San Francisco, CA – March 31, 2005** – ValuePoint Networks' award-winning SuperAPs™ are part of a new solar-powered system to bring the first ever high speed Internet to the South Pacific Island of Niue.

Below are excerpts from an article written by Richard St Clair, Co-Founder & Internet Evangelist, Internet Users Society Niue.

“Solarfi - Niue's Wi-Fi Going Green”

The red sun sets over the Pacific Ocean on the tiny Island nation of Niue. Emani and I finish loading up the truck and van for tomorrow's new experiment; a completely solar powered Wi-Fi station in an outer village.

This past week, the Premier of Niue has given the Internet Users Society Niue permission to use an abandoned one hundred foot tower that was once used for some kind of Government Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries project. It's been standing unused for almost two lustrum, and since Niue's second largest village sits next to it, we can make good use of it as a wifi tower.

The station configuration we want to use will be low current draw. Everything that goes up on the tower runs POE (power over Ethernet). So we have no coaxes going up. That means more signal to and from the antennas, and less losses. Good stuff. We need 48 Volts DC for the ValuePoint Wifi Access Point ([www.valuepointnet.com](http://www.valuepointnet.com)) and 5 VDC for the security camera. If we were any place else in the world, we would run a few solar panels in parallel charging some sealed gel cells, run down to pure dc of 48 volts and then build DC to DC converters for whatever voltages we need to run the actual components up on the tower. But we're in the Niue.

Solar power means we could do it anywhere on the island where it might be needed. It might not seem important in some parts of the world, but most of Niue is still not developed. No running water, no electricity, no roads, and no houses. So if we wanted to install a repeater site anywhere other than the outer [developed] ring of the island, solar is the only way to do it. This particular installation in Hakupu will be the test run that we will use to see how well it goes with such a configuration.

The Value Point Access point ([www.valuepointnet.com](http://www.valuepointnet.com)) is a fully outdoor certified, POE, 802.11bg access point with a built in 500mw (1/2 watt) amplifier all built in to a

solid, water tight, UV proof box, for about the same price as what an amplifier all by itself would normally cost. It's light, and easy to carry up the tower, and since it's POE, the coax need only run a foot or two, to the 90-degree panel antenna that we'll face toward the village. This is a much more efficient way to run RF power to the top of a tower than using 100 plus feet of coax. Even extremely low loss coax can lose enough signal strength over a distance like that at 2.4ghz to show noticeable performance deterioration.

Emani announces from the top that he's got the Access Point wired and the panel antenna is pointed at the village. We power it all up for a test before he leaves the top of the tower...just to be on the safe side. We can see by the lights on the switch (now mounted inside the control box) that everything has gone well during boot. So we stroll out to the jungle in front of the tower with the palm top to see "google" for the first time using wifi from Hakupu. It's there. It's all good and everything is working just the way we wanted it to.

One last look with the palmtop into the web interface of the Valuepoint access point before we leave for home. There are already users from the village online surfing the web. Word travels fast in this part of the jungle. Ones and zeros travel even faster.

**About ValuePoint Networks:**

ValuePoint is a manufacturer of Rugged Access Points and Controllers. ValuePoint's products are designed for the unique needs of Service Providers, Wireless ISPs, Billing Providers, and Venue Operators in the burgeoning public access and mobile computing space. For more information on ValuePoint's Controllers, Rugged Access Points, and Accessories, please visit [www.valuepointnet.com](http://www.valuepointnet.com)

**About Internet Users Society Niue:**

[www.niue.nu](http://www.niue.nu)