

## DoCoMo Agrees To Lease Cellular Capacity To Japan Communications

TOKYO (Nikkei)--NTT DoCoMo Inc. (9437) has agreed to lease access to its cellular network to telecommunications venture Japan Communications Inc. (9424), following intervention by Communications Minister Hiroya Masuda, The Nikkei learned Wednesday.

After negotiations broke down, Japan Communications brought the issue to Masuda, who ruled in November that DoCoMo had to open up its network. Japan Communications won on many points it had sought, including fixed charges based on the provided bandwidth and the freedom to set fees for its customers.

This is the first time that the ministry has stepped in to sort out a deadlock between a cellular service provider and an operator that offers cellular services using leased network capacity.

DoCoMo and Japan Communications are expected to sign a basic agreement Thursday. Such specifics as actual leasing charges are to be hammered out through further negotiations.

Should all go smoothly, Japan Communications aims to launch its cellular services in year ending March 31, 2009. It is considering offering a data communications terminal that can access both cellular phone and PHS (personal handyphone system) networks, as well as an e-book device.  
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Operators without their own networks and that lease infrastructure have just started offering their services in Japan. But because established telecom firms are reluctant to open up their networks, the business lags behind that overseas.

Major Internet service provider Internet Initiative Japan Inc. (3774) began leasing cellular capacity from DoCoMo in January. And Walt Disney Co. plans to launch cellular service in Japan this March, using network capacity leased from the Softbank Corp. (9984) group.

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