

# Global Satellite Services in Sri Lanka



Following the recent Memorandum of Understanding signed in Colombo, British Telecom and Ceycom signed the agreement for the provision of Global Satellite Services in Sri Lanka. The agreement was signed in Singapore by John Blewett, marketing development manager of British Telecommunications and Gamini Gunawardena, executive director of Ceycom Global Communication.

British Telecommunications plc (BT) which is one of the world's leading providers of communication services, is reportedly negotiating for a strategic merger with AT&T of the USA, which will make the new company among the top ranking communication providers in the world. Ceycom Global Communication is Sri Lanka's first satellite communications company. The agreement between BT and Ceycom will enable Ceycom to enhance its network coverage to the European and American sectors and further boost its presence in the Asia-Pacific region. Under the Singapore agreement Ceycom will also promote BT's satellite business in Sri Lanka.

Ceycom is a joint venture between the Ceylinco Group and Hughes Escorts Communication, which is the communications subsidiary of General Motors of the USA. It has now completed setting up a state-of-the art satellite communications network covering the entire island. Ceycom's tie up with BT is considered not only as a major strategic gain for Ceycom, but also as further proof that Sri Lanka is now on the way to being recognized as the hub for international communications

in the South-Asian region. Picture shows John Blewett, marketing development manager of BT and Gamini Gunawardena, executive director of Ceycom signing the agreement in Singapore.