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WiMax Telecom Eyes Standards

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Service provider startup WiMax Telecom AG is mulling its choice of technology for a European wireless broadband network launch later this year.

In a prepared statement this week, the company announced it has "acquired the nationwide frequencies for WiMax in Austria" and "has concrete plans for a rollout among others in Switzerland." It also declared that a future service launch in Eastern Europe "is already in the planning stages" (see [WiMax Telecom Acquires Spectrum](#)).

Despite such assertions, the company remains undecided on its long-term market strategy. "We are going to have two trials in Austria to start with," chairman Dov Bar-Gera tells *Unstrung*. "One will be in a rural area 55 kilometers south of Vienna. We will install something in the order of five to ten base stations. That will probably be pre-WiMax technology... In the area of Vienna we would like to do another trial with another technology, maybe UMTS-TDD. We are not sure which of the two will be the final winner in the race." [Ed note: So why the choice of company name, then?]

Bar-Gera touts [Alvarion Ltd.](#) (Nasdaq: [ALVR](#) - [message board](#)), [Aperto Networks](#), and [Proxim Corp.](#) (Nasdaq: [PROX](#) - [message board](#)) as potential vendor candidates for the 802.16-based trial, and notes [IPWireless Inc.](#) as a likely contender for the UMTS-TDD deal. "We have our tenders out and are still in conversations. In February, we will decide."

WiMax Telecom paid €160,000 (\$208,000) for a nationwide 3.5GHz license in Austria and aims to launch the trials "in the middle of Q2" this year. Its Swiss plans are on hold until local regulator [OFCOM](#) auctions similar spectrum.

Founded in October 2004, the startup has received an undisclosed investment from InCentive Capital Holding AG. "We were a paper company until we got the frequencies in Austria," says Bar-Gera. "A Website is on our to-do list."

— Justin Springham, Senior Editor, Europe, [Unstrung](#)