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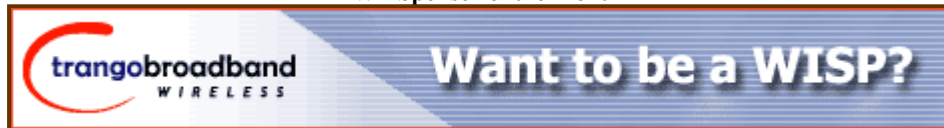
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New RapidLink 54 Products Deliver Up to 108 Mbps with Up to 30 Miles in the Unlicensed 5.8 GHz ISM Band

[RapidWave Inc.](#) announced RapidLink 54, a new point-to-point outdoor bridge with extended range, scalable data rates, and aggressive pricing to meet a broad range of wireless network requirements. Operating in the license-exempt 5.8 GHz frequency band, RapidLink 54 provides superior network capacity and interference protection without the burden of licensing fees, and an up to eight-fold increase in throughput over today's IEEE 802.11b (Wi-Fi 2.4 GHz) technology used in other systems.

"RapidLink 54 will provide our customers with an excellent choice that combines performance, scalability, robustness and affordability," said Reiner Mim, RapidWave's Vice President of Product Development. "Unlike most competing solutions, it allows connecting remote locations at speeds that can cope with ever-increasing traffic demand, yet at a cost that can meet tight budgets."

RapidLink 54 is based on the most advanced 802.11a core technology that offers increased receiver sensitivity and transmit/receive performance enhancements, yielding up to 43 Mbps effective TCP/IP throughput. In combination with RapidWave's proprietary protocol enhancements, transmission ranges of up to 30 miles can be achieved. In addition, RapidWave will introduce data compression capabilities and a burst mode for RapidLink 54 in Q2/2004, which will further boost performance by over 50% with a free firmware upgrade. Integrated support for Power-over-Ethernet greatly simplifies the physical installation and reduces cost. RapidLink 54 is configured and managed through a user-friendly Web interface that allows the network administrator to monitor the wireless link from anywhere on the network through a standard browser.

RapidLink 54 is offered as a complete turnkey package for rapid deployment. It includes two outdoor bridge units, two Power-over-Ethernet injectors, and all the cabling and mounting hardware needed to quickly set up a wireless link. Pricing for a complete wireless link begins at \$2,890, depending on antenna options and other features. RapidLink 54 is sampling now to early access customers, with volume production scheduled for late February 2004.

By [Robert Hoskins](#)

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