

# Datafile of Eastern European Telecommunications

[CIT Publications Ltd](#), 3 Colleton Crescent, Exeter, Devon EX2 4DG, UK

Tel: +44 1392 315567, Fax: +44 1392 315556

[Back to Belarus Contents List](#)

---

## Belarus

---

### Business Networks

#### **Regulations**

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) is in charge of telecoms policy, licensing, certification and harmonisation of equipment and tariff approval. The Communications Law, which came into effect on 1 January 1995, stipulates that any company may set up a private network and interconnect with the PTO, Beltelecom, subject to approval from the MPT. Internet service providers (ISPs) must be licensed by the MPT and connect with the Belpak network.

#### **Business networks market overview**

National PTO Beltelecom's wholly owned subsidiary Belpak is the main provider of value added services in Belarus. It operates a national public packet switched network which became operational in 1994 and was upgraded in 1996. By November 1999 the network, which supports the X.25, X.28, X.75 and frame relay protocols, had 18 switching nodes in operation around the country and offered direct X.75 connections to Canada, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and the US. Belpak introduced a videoconferencing service in 1997. Most of its customers are in the government, banking and financial sectors.

The digital overlay network project (see the basic telephony section) has enabled Beltelecom to improve services to corporate subscribers in Minsk. It launched an ISDN service in 1997 which by November 1999 had 10,000 subscribers, up from 9,000 the previous year. Beltelecom's other direct contribution to the corporate services market is the provision of VSAT-based services in cooperation with the Deutsche Telekom subsidiary DeTeSat.

Though the development of Internet access has been one of Belpak's priorities, by November 1999 it could claim only 4,000 subscribers. Major customers are offered Internet access over 64kbps dedicated lines or by 128kbps routers in Minsk. Belpak has established international links of 1Mbps with MCI WorldCom and Global One. According to the Belarus Internet Society, despite the expectation of substantial growth, low speeds and high prices have meant that the Internet revolution has not yet gathered momentum in Belarus. Other Belarussian ISPs include operators such as the state-owned Unibel Academic network operated by the Computer and Analytical Centre of the Ministry of Education and private providers such as Open Contact and Belsonet.

To date only a few international corporate service providers are operating in Belarus. Global One's X.25 service is available as is connection to Infonet's X.25 private and virtual private data networks.

Last updated: November 1999

[Back to Belarus Contents List](#)

---



© Copyright 1998 [CIT Publications Ltd](http://www.citpubs.com), 3 Colleton Crescent, Exeter, Devon, EX2 4DG, United Kingdom.  
Telephone: +44 1392 315567 / Fax: +44 1392 315556 / E-mail: [sales@citpubs.com](mailto:sales@citpubs.com)

All rights in respect of the study (including copyright) are reserved. Neither the whole nor any part of the study may be reproduced, photocopied, scanned, stored in a retrieval system nor transmitted in any form nor by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise nor can it be re-sold, distributed, lent, shown or otherwise made available to any person who is not a full time employee of the subscriber without the prior written consent of CIT Publications Ltd. The subscriber agrees to take all reasonable measures to safeguard this confidentiality. An order cannot be cancelled after the package containing the study has been opened.

Note: Although great care has been taken to ensure accuracy and completeness in this project, no legal responsibility can be accepted by CIT Publications Limited for the information and opinions expressed in this report.