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Venezuela: Private Consortium Delivers Payment For Cellular Telephone Band

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On June 1, the Telcel consortium delivered a $100,000 check to the state-run Venezuelan Telephone Company (CANTV) for the A band cellular telephone concession. The consortium is comprised of foreign companies Bell South and Racal Telecom, and Venezuelan firms BBS, Comtel and Bancor. The consortium's total investment is $200,000. Operations are scheduled to begin in September. Telcel will serve the country's largest cities: Caracas, Maracay, Valencia, Maracaibo, Puerto Ordaz, Barquisimeto and Barcelona. After an installation fee of $360, clients will be charged a base rate of $14 per month, and $0.25 per minute of telephone use. CANTV is to be privatized. At present, the phone company has 1.5 million installed lines. (Basic data from AFP, 06/01/91)

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