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**Hughes bags Rs 22.5 cr order from SBI, Sep 14 '09**

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Networking solutions provider Hughes Communications said it has received a five-year contract worth Rs 22.5 crore from public sector lender the State Bank of India (SBIN.NS : 2008.05 +51.6) for deploying satellite broadband network to connect its off-site ATMs across the country.

The contract, valued at Rs 22.5 crore spread over five years, includes turnkey network deployment with system integration, satellite bandwidth and network management, Hughes said in a statement. Hughes will offer secure VSAT-based connectivity to SBI with backhaul to the bank's Data Centre and Disaster Recovery (DR) locations.

Under this contract, Hughes would provide connectivity to kiosk machines that would be co-located with the ATMs to provide customers details about their account and book railway tickets.

"Satellite broadband has been the backbone of connectivity for the Indian banking industry and Hughes is proud to have connected more than 6,500 Core Banking Solution (CBS) branches and approximately 4,500 ATMs/Kiosk for various banks in the country using this technology," Hughes Communications India vice-president (Enterprise) Shivaji Chatterjee said.

In addition to this, about 2,000 ATMs are to be installed by its associate banks (AB) and this rollout also forms part of scope for Hughes in this project. Being selected for the SBI project, all associate banks of SBI can now place order directly with Hughes for connecting their ATMs as well, Hughes said.