

News You Can Use

A Quarter Takes You To Denmark Or Dominican Republic

(NAPSA)—Just one quarter will now take you more than a quarter of the way around the world. For 25 cents, callers in 18 states now can call family and friends in many countries around the world for a one-minute chat when they call from Verizon payphones.

More than 68,000 Verizon payphones across the nation are now equipped to handle international direct-dialed calls through an agreement with Phone1, a company that provides international long-distance service. The specially equipped phones with bright yellow handsets will be easy to spot. More than a year ago, the service was introduced on 20,000 payphones in New York City.

“We expect this great deal on international calling from Verizon payphones will be a big hit with New York’s diverse population and the region’s huge concentration of tourists from around the world,” said Michael McLaughlin, national marketing manager for Verizon Public Communications. “Using just pocket change, New Yorkers can stay in touch anywhere in the world from anywhere in the state and visitors



POCKET CHANGE—Callers at 68,000 Verizon payphones nationwide now have the world in their pocket. They can now call many countries around the world for just 25 cents.

can call home without inflating their hotels bills.”

Few long distance companies provide international direct-dialed calling from payphones at reasonable prices. The average price for a one-minute international payphone call using a prepaid calling card is \$2.50.

How It Works

Callers can dial many countries

with 25 cents in coins. An additional one dollar in coins will buy one to 10 minutes depending on the call’s destination. The service is only available using coins.

Dialing instructions are placed on the specially equipped phones with bright yellow headsets. Callers only need to dial the international number. Voice prompts tell the user when to deposit the coins and how many minutes that will buy. No operators are involved, unless a caller needs assistance. When 30 seconds of the call remain, a recording will tell the caller to deposit one dollar in coins for an additional block of time. If no coins are deposited, the call will end when the time expires.

Popular With Minorities

The new service is proving to be popular with tourists as well as immigrants from countries such as the Dominican Republic and Ecuador.

Verizon operates more than 330,000 payphones in 38 states and is one of the world’s leading providers of communications services. For more information on Verizon, visit www.verizon.com.