

Move to the islands for fast broadband

REMOTE communities will get a faster broadband connection than most cities thanks to a new network.

By using the internet at Sabhal Mor Ostaig college on Skye as a source, a wireless relay network has been created to serve the Small Isles of Eigg, Rum, Muck and Canna, as well as remote parts of the mainland.

The technology was developed by communities with help from the University of the Highlands and Islands and Edinburgh University.

Researchers said many rural places are too far from a telephone exchange for high-speed broadband to work, and

by **KIRSTEEN PATERSON**

satellite broadband is slow and expensive. However, the new system will deliver speeds of up to 20 megabits per second, faster than many cities.

Jem Taylor, of the University of the Highlands and Islands, said: 'We hope it will help us to provide high-speed broadband to some of our most isolated learning centres.'

'Commercial internet providers have failed to find an economical way to reach these remote, mountainous regions, meaning many are being left behind in the digital revolution.'

