Ericsson introduces first WAP solutions for Service and Content Providers

Ericsson announces its first two products supporting WAP (the Wireless Application Protocol). Shown for the first time today are a WAP Gateway and a WAP Service Developers' Kit for Service and Content Providers, which allow the development of massmarket access to Internet services from small-screen mobile phones.

Demonstrated at the GSM Asia-Pacific Congress in Singapore, these Ericsson solutions will help create applications that provide users of mobile phones and other small-screen handheld terminals with direct access to Internet services without a laptop PC.

At present, if mobile phone users want to access on-line services they usually have to connect a laptop computer or PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) to their mobile phone. With WAP-enabled terminals, many datacom applications will be accessible from the terminal itself, using a built-in browser.

Ericsson's WAP Gateway for GSM operators is a network node providing direct connection between the mobile network and dedicated Internet application servers. It acts as a "client" of these servers, and can be accessed through USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Services Data), SMS or any IP bearer, for example circuit-switched datacoms or GPRS (General Packet Radio Services). The WAP Gateway will be further field trialled later this year and will be commercially available from mid-1999.

Ericsson's WAP Service Developers' Kit is a suite of design tools for Providers wanting to develop WAP-compatible on-line services, for instance in e-commerce, messaging, info provisioning or gaming. Services can also be combined with telephony to offer users sophisticated call handling and control, for instance immediate callback to a voice-mail.

The kit contains tools enabling design, simulation and customization of WAP applications. The terminal's graphical user interface can be simulated, applications developed without the need for a detailed knowledge of the protocol's Wireless Markup Language (WML) or existing HTML-based applications can be made WAP-compatible. The Service Developers' Kit will be commercially available from November 1998.

Ericsson´s 100,000 employees are active in more than 130 countries. Their combined expertise in fixed and mobile networks, mobile phones and infocom systems makes Ericsson a world-leading supplier in telecommunications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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Wireless Application Protocol

WAP works across many different wireless network technologies, since the protocol is a global, open standard intended to encourage the rapid development of advanced, differentiated wireless services by operators and content providers. This will attract new subscribers and open up the mass-market for wireless datacom services. The WAP Forum, with Ericsson as one of the four founding members, now has more than 60 member companies.