

## **Ericsson and Vodafone UK makes world's first WCDMA voice call over commercial network**

**The very first WCDMA live voice call in field was successfully carried out yesterday by Ericsson and Vodafone, the world's largest mobile systems vendor and mobile network operator respectively. This is yet another milestone in bringing 3G to the customers and a proof point of Ericsson's pole position in the market.**

The call was made in a complete WCDMA network, based on commercial nodes. It was set-up with a mobile phone over an air interface and handled in Vodafone UK's 3G network in Thames Valley, to be terminated on a fixed line in Newbury.

"This live call, using commercial equipment, is a step in our rollout plan designed to ensure pioneering customers like Vodafone to have an early market launch," says Torbjörn Possne, Executive Vice President and head of Ericsson's business unit WCDMA, PDC. "This clearly demonstrates that Ericsson not only is the leader in technology but also the first to bring it to the market."

Ericsson has a long and strong tradition of working with open standards. Since Ericsson initiated research on WCDMA in 1989, Ericsson has been a pioneering driver in established standardization bodies, such as ETSI and 3GPP, with the aim to reach common mature standards in WCDMA.

To date, Ericsson has supplied no less than a third of all the technology contributions to develop the standard WCDMA, which is far more than any other vendor. This determined technology push has resulted in a head start on the market for the new generation of mobile technology. Ericsson has been named as supplier in 25 out of 45 WCDMA published commercial agreements, making Ericsson the worlds leading 3G supplier.

As the driver of Mobile Internet, Ericsson is also promoting the development of IETF including the standardization of protocols between computers and telephones, aiming at an "all- IP solution" for WCDMA.

### **Ericsson's record of 3G firsts**

- 1996: Ericsson conducted the first multimedia test for WCDMA.
- 1997: the world's first experimental WCDMA system was delivered to NTT DoCoMo, Japan.
- In March 1998 Ericsson was the world's first vendor to demonstrate GPRS live at a speed of 115 kb/s as well as GPRS/EDGE live at a speed of 384 Kb/s.

- September 1999: World's first roaming call between a live GSM network and WCDMA.
- February 2000: Ericsson introduced the world's first real-time router for wireless networks. The router enables operators to build all-IP wireless networks that can handle demanding, real-time services.
- In May 2000 the Hong Kong operator SmarTone, together with Ericsson, succeeded in introducing the world's first live operational GPRS network.
- Ericsson successfully completed the world's first field trial of voice over IP in September 2000, also using the ROCCO compression algorithm, an important Ericsson contribution to the future standard on compression technology.
- November 2000: Ericsson, BT Wireless and SmarTone in Hong Kong staged the world's first successful end-to-end demonstration of IPv6, the next-generation Internet Protocol, together with GPRS.
- Ericsson was the first vendor to deliver equipment for commercial launch, beginning last year to customers in Europe and Japan.

*Ericsson is the leading communications supplier, combining innovation in mobility and Internet in creating the new era of mobile Internet. Ericsson provides total solutions covering everything from systems and applications to mobile phones and other communications tools. With presence in 140 countries, Ericsson simplifies communications for customers all over the world.*

Read more at <http://www.ericsson.com/press>

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