International Telecommunication Union

QUESTION 18/2

Strategy for migration of mobile networks to IMT-2000 and beyond

ITU-D STUDY GROUP 2 3rd STUDY PERIOD (2002-2006)

Guidelines on the smooth transition of existing mobile networks to IMT-2000 for developing countries (GST)

International Telecommunication Union

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PREFACE

The report "Mid-Term Guidelines on the smooth transition of existing mobile networks to IMT 2000 for developing countries" (MTG, for short) is now available free of charge on the ITU-D Study Group 2 website: www.itu.int/itudoc/itu-d/question/studygr2/87040.html. The MTG represents one output of the study of Question 18/2 (Strategy for migration of mobile networks to IMT-2000 and beyond).

Study Group 2 also recommended abridging the MTG into more easy-to-use Guidelines.

To streamline the MTG to a concise Guidelines format was in itself another challenge.

These Guidelines for the Smooth Transition (GST) from the Existing Mobile Networks to IMT-2000 have been conceived to provide essential information for those who are concerned with this transition.

The reader will find three threads running through the Guidelines: 1) development of policies for the transition of existing networks to IMT-2000, 2) possible transition paths, and 3) economic aspects of the transition to IMT 2000. They also provide references to related literature and ITU Recommendations.

The Telecommunication Development Bureau thanks all the distinguished experts of the Rapporteur's Group on Question 18/2 who took time to contribute to these Guidelines.

Our sincere hope is that this version of the Guidelines will be helpful to the developing countries.

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SUMMARY

These Guidelines are intended for use of telecom operators, policy-makers and regulators to facilitate development of their respective strategies for the transition from pre-IMT-2000 networks to IMT-2000. While it is desirable for pre-IMT-2000 systems to be able to evolve to IMT-2000, the decision whether or not to evolve is not within the scope of the ITU. In each case the decision, as a policy matter, must be made by those responsible for each particular system/service. These Guidelines intend to present an objective and neutral view of the issues to be addressed in the transition from existing mobile networks to IMT-2000 and have been prepared in response to a specific request to ITU-D, as indicated in ITU-D Doc 2/001 of 3 May 2002, http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?type=sitems&lang=e&parent=D02-SG02-C-0001.

Following a decision of ITU-D Study Group 2, the present document represents a concise version of MTG with a more typical Guidelines format, intended, among others, for use at the WTDC in Doha, Qatar, in 2006.

While this document aims at providing the reader with a quick appreciation of the issues involved in the transition process, MTG remains the prime reference for all the matters related to transitioning from the present systems to IMT-2000 systems in the developing countries. In addition, while this document is based on the MTG, it has been updated and certain sections have been rearranged for clarity.

These Guidelines do not make any comparison between performance of different technologies nor do they promote any specific technologies.

This document provides facts about the various mobile systems and technologies that might help to decide on the appropriate transition path and are a natural complement to the ITU "Handbook on Deployment of IMT-2000 Systems", in which more detailed technical information can be found.

Disclaimer

Some sections of these Guidelines incorporate material from published ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations. As a result, minor misalignment in the use of names, acronyms and/or terms between this text and the rest of the Guidelines text may have occurred due to the different epochs in which the source material has been generated. In the few cases in which this may have occurred, either more recent names and/or acronyms have been retained.

Acknowledgements

These Guidelines have been prepared using information provided by a variety of administrations, companies, industry groups and associations, including examples of their products, systems, models and case studies.

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