

ITU/BDT Regional Seminar for Africa on Fixed Mobile Convergence and Guidelines
on the smooth transition of existing mobile networks to IMT-2000 for Developing
Countries

TRANSITION PATH TO IMT-2000 IN SERBIA

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The paper presents pre-commercial WCDMA/UMTS networks for two mobile operators in Serbia as a first step in transition from existing 2.5G networks to IMT-2000.

The main goal to use pre-commercial step is to bridge the gap caused by still not regulated market for IMT-2000 and the moment when the licensing process will be resolved.

The paper discuss the pre-commercial WCDMA/UMTS systems which are intended to be used for different kinds of load and interoperability testing in order to prepare the operator's network for the fast 3G launch. The paper covers experiences during the WCDMA/UMTS design and implementation projects and solutions how to reuse 2G and use 3G network infrastructure in order to support advanced services residing in the common Service Layer. The state of the art 3G technology is integrated with existing 2G infrastructures, paving the way to smooth evolution to IMT-2000 networks.

The reasons behind is to give the opportunity to the operators to:

- build up competence and get hands on experience of IMT-2000 networks and services
- look into integration issues, e.g. billing and customer care
- prepare for an early IMT-2000 launch
- hold market events

The problems faced during the process are similar for other developing countries in the region and worldwide, so we strongly believe that this practice could be copied in order to have fast introduction of IMT-2000 mobile networks enabling the broad range of advanced services.