

Mobile Broadband Evolution: Sharing experience gained in competitive markets

Abstract:

Mobile Broadband reality meets predictions with more than 290 HSPA networks launched worldwide (September 2009) and around 600m 3G subscribers (UMTS + EVDO) worldwide, including 450m UMTS/WCDMA subscribers and around 165m HSPA subscribers. HSPA and HSPA+ provide a robust DSL like Broadband experience with coverage essentially everywhere. HSPA+ is requested by the operators to get the maximum return from their UMTS network. LTE represents the next step in the evolution of 3GPP radio interfaces to deliver "Global Mobile Broadband". LTE protects operator investments in GSM/WCDMA/HSPA systems, allowing smooth migration according to market requirements while retaining the benefits of 3GPP family technologies (security, worldwide coverage, roaming, etc). LTE will enhance today's services and enable new generation of services. There is no doubt about a strong impact of spectrum harmonisation on a development of mobile broadband mass market. Spectrum is a key asset for mobile communications and a long term vision is necessary for spectrum allocation. Harmonised approach is required across Regions to secure affordable mobile broadband with high performance at reasonable cost, thus importance of ITU activities and in particular WRCs decisions.