



Launch of Broadband Services to Boost Slovakian Market

Mobile penetration in Slovakian markets is expected to reach 82% by end 2005, rising to 91 % by 2009. Faced with such a saturated market, operators in Slovakia like T-Mobile & Orange are looking forward to boost the market by launching their broadband services. According to the BMI forecasts, Slovakian broadband penetration rates are expected to reach near 3% by end of 2005, with rates increasing to 11% by 2009.

T-Mobile Slovakia and Siemens worked together to announce the launch of the world's first nationwide commercial mobile broadband service using FLASH-OFDM network technology. With FLASH-OFDM technology, mobile operators can seamlessly connect enterprise customers to corporate LANs and consumers to the Internet with the speed and low packet latency that exceed stringent wired network requirements, with mobile broadband and cellular coverage. T-Mobile users in the capital Bratislava and 19 other cities across Slovakia will enjoy average downlink mobile data speed of 1Mbit/s and 256 Kbit/s in the uplink.

Keeping with the pace of launching broadband services in Slovakian markets, Orange Slovakia has also reported its plans to introduce broadband services in the near future. Orange Slovakia is currently in the process of testing two technical solutions, HSPDA and UMTS TDD. It is expected that HSPDA which is supported by large global manufactures and provides the added advantage of large-scale implementation in multiple countries and domestic users with international roaming will allow the users to reach peak speeds of 14 Mbit/sec, while UMTS TDD will provide peak speeds of 5Mbps with future speeds of 13.5Mbps envisaged. In addition, UMTS TDD has already been utilised in the majority of commercial networks for broadband deployments, and more importantly is able to integrate seamlessly onto existing 3G HSPDA systems.

Source: Business Monitor International