

News Flash



TD-SCDMA – Chinese made 3G Standard Fails Tests

TD-SCDMA, the Chinese homegrown 3G standard failed to perform well in Government test. It is far from ready and offers poor performance compared to CDMA and 3GSM (WCDMA).

Phones equipped with the TD-SCDMA standard could only be used to make calls or send SMS. The chips of these mobile phones do not support well the key 3G value-added applications like sending multimedia messages, making video calls, downloading and playing video clips. Services such as video are a key reason for introducing 3G technology, making it unlikely that any market would adopt a standard that doesn't support them. TD-SCDMA system also fell short of expectations when it came to demonstrating interoperability (IOT) between terminals.

The disappointing news may dash hopes that the standard would be a great success, and adds uncertainty to the granting of 3G licenses. Government officials last year said that all products related to TD-SCDMA would be ready for commercial use this month. Trials were expected to be completed before the end of June. Tao Xiong Qiang, former rotating President of TD-SCDMA Industry Alliance said that the field trial might be delayed. It will take an additional half a year to a year before TD-SCDMA mobile phones are ready to go to the market.

Many telecom analysts believe that the poor test results will undermine the Regulator's confidence and the licensing scheme may be delayed. They said that this is not the first time TD-SCDMA has had problems in testing, tests last year showed poor core network performance as well as more unsatisfactory handset performance.

The Chinese Government has indicated that the readiness of TD-SCDMA will play a role in determining when 3G licenses are issued, making it difficult for officials to hand out licenses before the technology is ready for commercial deployment.

Sources: Associated Press
Telecom Asia Daily