

# News Flash



## **LGT Favours 3GSM (WCDMA) over EVDO**

South Korea's only CDMA2000 based 3G operator, LG Telecom, plans to ask the ministry of Information and Communication (MIC) to change the technology requirement of its 3G license from CDMA2000 to 3GSM (WCDMA)/HSDPA. The operator is anxious to follow rivals SK Telecom and KTF in launching 3GSM (WCDMA)-based and, ultimately HSDPA-based services because it does not want to be trapped as the only CDMA2000-based 3G operator in South Korea. The country's third-ranked operator failed to win a 3GSM (WCDMA) license back in 2000.

“ We are planning to ask the MIC to allow us to make a choice on our own when it comes to 2GHz frequency – 3G service, rather than being bound by our license conditions for 1xEVDO. Worldwide aside from us there are only a handful of carriers who have only the CDMA-based road map for 3G migration, such as KDDI in Japan and Sprint PCS in the US,” said a senior executive from LGT.

LGT does not want to be forced to pull all of its 3G eggs in the EVDO basket, which is why it wants the MIC to change its 2GHz license conditions and allow it to launch 3GSM (WCDMA) and HSDPA. It says that by launching 3GSM (WCDMA)/ HSDPA 3G services it could reduce its capex on 3G-network buildout by forming an alliance with SKT and KTF to share 3GSM (WCDMA)-network construction in second-tier cities outside the major metropolitan areas.

“ The lifespan for EVDO as the mainstream in South Korea will be for only two or three years more at the most,” said Rah June-Ho, a senior telecom analyst at the LG Economic Research Institute. “By then, HSDPA will be ready to replace EVDO as the mainstream 3G technology.

Source: 3G Mobile, May25, 2005.