



GSM Acquires 90% Share of Global Mobile Growth

Globally the GSM subscribers continue to grow at a rapid pace. At the end of March'06 there were **1.79 billion GSM subscribers** constituting nearly 75% of the total cellular market. In FY-06, 476 million cellular subscribers were added, out of which GSM additions were 424 million constituting nearly **90%** of the total additions. At present there are 670 GSM networks in over 200 countries.

In the **Asia-Pac region**, GSM subscribers reached **650 million** in March'06, a growth of 25% over the previous year. **In India**, GSM has reached the 70 million. In FY'06, about 75% of the new subscribers chose GSM. **In China**, GSM subs reached **359 million** in March'06. Both these countries are now at par in terms of monthly additions of over 5 million per month, i.e. **over 1 million additions per week**.

GSM annual growth hit more than 90% in Latin America and the Caribbean, and over 60% in both the Middle East and Africa regions. Africa added 1 million new GSM subscribers each month to reach 146 million, a growth of 63% over the last year. Growth in Eastern Europe was near 50%.

The 3G upgrade of GSM, 3GSM (WCDMA) has also shown a significant growth in the past year and has proved to be the most popular 3G technology. There were over **55 million WCDMA subscribers** in March 2006, representing **140% yearly growth** and over **3 million monthly additions** in the last 6 months. WCDMA gained 1 in 3 new mobile connections in Western Europe in Q1 06. Almost two thirds of global 163 3GSM (WCDMA) license holders have launched their services. There are 105 Commercial 3G networks in 47 countries.

HSDPA achieved significant traction amongst 3G/WCDMA operators worldwide. 79 HSDPA network deployments, an increase of 60% in 5 months, were planned or in implementation in 43 countries. 14 networks commercially launched HSDPA services in Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Isle of Man (UK), Israel, Kuwait, Madeira, Portugal, South Africa, and the USA.

Source: GSA & EMC Database