Migration from 2G to 3G in South Africa



S.A. progress: Roadmap from GSM to UMTS



→ Evolution Path towards UMTS due to Market Demand



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Disadvantages of current situation

- Disadvantages for user
 - Restricted user data rate (9.6kBit/s)
 - Calls routed over the PSTN / ISDN to the data networks: higher price (PSTN access as transit network)
 - Subscriber will be charged for connection time, not for usage
 - Long call setup time ca. 20s (modems)
 - Restricted length of SMS
- Disadvantages for operator
 - No efficient resource management possible
 - Restricted number of user
 - SMS is not an ideal match for many applicate

No possibilities to push data services as a mass market !





GSM Phase 2.5 addresses the disadvantages of current solution

Higher user data rates:

- Use of data compression (HSCSD, GPRS)
- Combining of traffic channels (HSCSD, GPRS)
- New channel coding (different for HSCSD and GPRS)

Increased radio resource efficiency - higher number of users:

• Shared access to the same channel (GPRS)

GPRS offers a path towards UMTS

- an evolution path to 3rd generation: UMTS
- a means to evolve from a predominantly voice to a mixed voice and data world: voice is also a kind of data !
- a means to exploit and enhance existing networks
- a solution where existing hardware need not be replaced. (Extremely cost effective)





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Questions

