

**ITU – D , BDT Activities**

**Seminar on IMT-2000 for CEE and Baltic States, Ljubljana, 1-3 Dec. 2003.**

**Session 3.4: Mobile Network experiences in the Region, Country Case Study  
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**Abstract of the presentation: MOBTEL` s Migration Path to 3G**

MOBTEL, the Mobile Telecommunications Company “Serbia” BK-PTT, Ltd., has been constantly devoted to upgrade and modernize the HW and SW as well as the introduction of new services in its GSM mobile network in order to keep steps with the world’s mobile telecommunication trends. Although operating in a developing country like Serbia, Mobtel has never had a dilemma whether evolve its mobile network from 2G to 3G. The main task is to find and choose the optimum path for this evolution and migration to 3G. However, it requires versatile analyses.

The various evolution scenarios, market needs and forecast of future trends show that there exist several path of the transition towards 3G. Market projection for mobile data, growth of packet network as a key driving elements and objectives for 3G deployment will be given in this presentation in the case study of Mobtel’s GSM mobile network in the Republic of Serbia.

One of the main aspects in the process of defining the transition path from 2G towards 3G deployment of the mobile network is the economic aspect with the cost of the possible options. Already deployed, Mobtel operator recognize its ability to minimize the costs of managing existing GSM and a new 3G network, as these networks could coexist and could share many of the same infrastructure, such as packet data platform, IP technology base, the GSM/GPRS core network including upgrading, subscriber account management, base station sites, existing transmission network, etc. The company polices are to choose the solution based on usage of the existing GSM network as much as convenient. The presentation will describe the current status of the Mobtel’s GSM/GPRS and GSM/EDGE network in the near future, considering the possible transition solution to 3G.

Since new 3G network perspectives and the evaluation of the revenues depend on the market opportunities, the presentation will comprise economic conditions and a short analysis of the Serbian mobile market demands and trends, including recognition of the special needs in data and Internet usage. Licensing, spectrum usage and availability needed for the 3G technology implementation will be presented as well.