



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

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COMMITTEE B

Ericsson

WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS FOR A DEVELOPING WORLD

We are about to make the leap into the information society - a society where modern communication facilities to access information and people will be the key to future success and prosperity.

Telecommunications will continue to be immensely important for the wealth creation of companies and nations. To be part of the development of telecommunications is indeed to be part of the future.

Perhaps the most dramatic development in communications we have experienced since the invention of the telephone is the invention and worldwide deployment of mobile telephony.

Today, there are more than 200 million subscribers to mobile telephony services worldwide - a number we expect to increase to 800 million in another five years' time (not including WLL).

By then, the number of wireless phones will equal - or perhaps even exceed - the number of wired phones.

In fact, already last year, we witnessed how more individuals signed up for mobile services than for fixed services.

This trend is driven by some inherent advantages in wireless communication such as lower cost and shorter time for deployment.

These characteristics of wireless communication are of particular interest to emerging economies - expectations that **50%** of all wireless investments worldwide over the next **five to seven** years will be made in Asia.

These trends will forever change the world of communications as we know it. Add to that the convergence of **communications, information technology** and **content** and we are indeed looking at nothing short of a revolution - the move to the global **mobile** information age.

For the global telecommunications community, this is a decisive moment. We are looking at a whole new industry where growth may outpace most of what we have known so far.

It will bring people together and breakdown geographical and cultural barriers in an unparalleled way.

Communications will create new opportunities in many ways with unlimited access to people and information. New markets will open up through the timely adoption of new technology which will - in **its** turn - make it possible to harness the opportunities in a truly global way.

In little over two decades, mobile telephony has fundamentally transformed the way 2 hundred million people live and communicate. It affects their daily life from morning to evening - around the clock and around the world.

Still, so far we have merely built-out **voice** communications.

The opportunities involved with the coming paradigm shift towards **mobile** Internet and **mobile** multimedia is virtually untapped.

Let us consider the **Internet**. Less than a decade ago, few people outside of the universities and technical labs knew what Internet was. Today, few people in the modern world are ignorant about the Internet.

Indeed, by the year 2001 - when there will be 600 million users of mobile telephony - there will also be 570 million or so users of the Internet.

Going forward, this will be two intertwined technologies that will evolve to offer a whole new range of applications and services.

The generation growing up today will be using a whole set of new communications capabilities when taking over the task to further developing our society.

Our 10-12 year old children are already today dependent upon the Internet for access to information as they do their homework.

And Internet commerce is growing at a pace that will **revolutionize** the retail business completely within a few years.

It does not take too much imagination to realize how much high-speed wireless access to our Internet devices could further propel that development.

And this is what the global mobile information age is all about.

These communications facilities together with new powerful computing platforms, will leverage opportunity in the coming era of truly global communications that extends to all people.

We would urge that this is not only where our vision, but also our dedicated and hard work, must go. It is, in short, the task and the mission of the telecommunications industry together with regulatory and standard setting bodies of all nations to facilitate the move to next-generation mobile communications.

By propelling this development, we contribute to the greater good in breaking down boundaries, opening up new opportunities and bringing the world together.

Ericsson has always been a keep supporter of standardization efforts to the benefit of this industry and its customers and we applaud the global standardization efforts to create a uniform superior technical platform for next-generation mobile communications that will - ultimately - realize unlimited roaming capabilities and total freedom.

In this era of change, there is dire need for **global** standards that will facilitate the economies-of-scale and global roaming that will drive both this industry and the dawning, global mobile information age.

ETSI's decision to adopt WCDM for the third generation cellular standard and the joint efforts by Japan and Europe to develop a common standard based on that technology is a unique event and the first step towards a true global wireless standard.

Thank you for your kind attention.
