



Geneva, 11 January 2005

Publication Notice

**No. 353-03-Rev-04**

## ITU Internet Reports: The Birth of Broadband Edition 2003



via ITU Website

This report on the “Birth of Broadband” is the fifth in the ITU Internet Reports series (previously known as “Challenges to the Network”). At a time when the telecommunication industry is struggling with overcapacity and indebtedness, broadband – high-speed Internet access – offers the chance of revitalizing market demand. The number of broadband subscribers is set to double in 2003.

This report was specially prepared to coincide with ITU TELECOM WORLD 2003, held in Geneva from 12 to 18 October 2003. The first part presents a series of analytical chapters, backed up by country case studies, graphs and charts. The second part presents the latest available data for broadband and telecommunication use in 206 economies across the globe, including the new release of ITU’s Mobile and Internet Index.

<b>Date of publication:</b>	English: available Russian: available in 2005
<b>Language:</b>	English, Russian
<b>Paper format:</b>	140 pages – A4 (21 × 29.7 cm)
<b>Electronic format:</b>	MS Word for Windows™ – Adobe Acrobat™ PDF
<b>Article number:</b>	English: 23173 Russian: 26261
<b>ISBN number:</b>	English: 92-61-10351-0 Russian: 92-61-10354-5
<b>Price in Swiss francs:</b>	<b>Catalogue Price: CHF 100.–</b> Member States and Sector Members: –15% Administrations of Least Developed Countries: –80%  <b>Electronic Bookshop: CHF 100.– (No discount)</b>

## **ITU Internet Reports: The Birth of Broadband Edition 2003**

This report on the “Birth of Broadband” is the fifth in the ITU Internet Reports series (previously known as “Challenges to the Network”). At a time when the telecommunication industry is struggling with overcapacity and indebtedness, it may seem strange to discuss developing a new network. But the birth of broadband – high-speed Internet access – offers the chance of revitalizing market demand. Whether sold by street hawkers in Hong Kong, China, or provided by State-owned utilities in Iceland, broadband is fast becoming the hot topic of 2003. By the end of 2002, there were already 50 million broadband subscribers worldwide; that number was set to double in 2003.

The birth of broadband raises some intriguing questions. What technology will triumph: ADSL, cable-modem, Wireless LAN or fibre? Why are some economies doing better than others? How can national and local governments promote broadband? How will disputes over peer-to-peer file-sharing be resolved? What regulatory issues are raised by the convergence between telecommunication and broadcast networks?

This report was specially prepared to coincide with ITU TELECOM WORLD 2003, held in Geneva from 12 to 18 October 2003. It follows on from the best-selling “Internet for a Mobile Generation” report. The first part presents a series of analytical chapters, backed up by country case studies, graphs and charts. The second part presents the latest available data for broadband and telecommunication use in 206 economies across the globe, including the new release of ITU’s Mobile and Internet Index.

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