



GSM World



About GSM Association

Vision

People

Membership

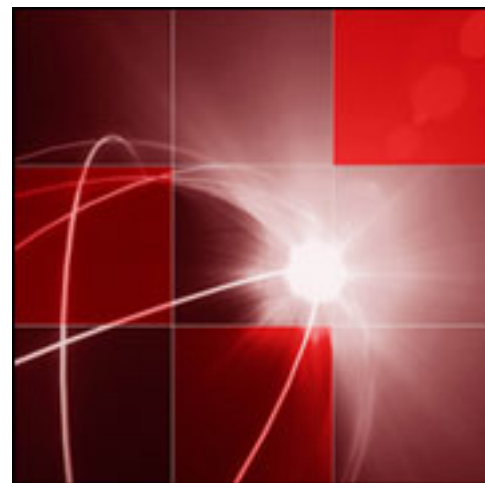
History of GSM & GSMA

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GSM Association
Brochure 2008**Brief History of GSM & the GSMA**

- 1982** Groupe Speciale Mobile (GSM) is formed by the Confederation of European Posts and Telecommunications (CEPT) to design a pan-European mobile technology
- 1984** GSM Project endorsed by the European Commission
- 1985** France, Italy, U.K. and West Germany sign a joint development agreement for GSM
- 1986** EU Heads of State agree to reserve 900MHz spectrum band for GSM
- 1987** Basic parameters of the GSM standard agreed in February. GSM Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) formed, comprising 15 members from 13 countries committed to deploying GSM Pan European Digital Conference (PEDC) held in London, U.K. (later rebranded as the GSM World Congress)
- 1988** GSM technology proven in validation trials
- 1989** Groupe Speciale Mobile (transferred to an ETSI technical committee) defines the GSM standard as the internationally accepted digital cellular telephony standard
- 1990** GSM adaptation work started for the DCS1800 band
- 1991** First GSM call made by Radiolinja in Finland
- 1992** Telstra Australia becomes the first non-European operator to sign the GSM MoU First international roaming agreement signed between Telecom Finland and Vodafone (UK) First SMS sent
- 1993** 32 networks on air in 18 countries or territories First truly hand portable terminals are launched commercially
- 1994** GSM Phase 2 data/fax bearer services launched GSM MoU membership surpasses 100 operators GSM subscribers hit one million



- 1995** GSM MoU is formally registered as an Association with 117 networks on air
Global GSM subscribers exceed 10 million
GSM World Congress held in Madrid, Spain
Formation of GSMA Regional Interest Groups (RIGs)
- 1996** First GSM networks in Russia and China go live
Pre-paid GSM SIM cards launched
GSM MoU membership approaches 200 operators from nearly 100 countries
167 networks live in 94 countries
GSM World Congress moves to Cannes, France
GSM subscribers hit 50 million
GSMA Awards launched
- 1997** 15 GSM networks on air in the USA using the 1900MHz band
First tri-band handsets launched
- 1998** Global GSM subscribers surpass 100 million
- 1999** WAP trials begin in France and Italy
Contracts placed for GPRS systems
- 2000** First commercial GPRS services launched
3G licence auctions commence
First GPRS handsets enter the market
Five billion SMS messages sent in one month
- 2001** First 3GSM network goes live
3GSM World Congress held in Cannes, France
Fifty billion SMS messages sent in first three months
GSM subscribers exceed 500 million
First mobile phone colour screens launched
- 2002** GSM introduced for 800MHz band
First Multimedia Messaging Services go live
95% of nations worldwide have GSM networks
400 billion SMS messages sent in the year
First mobile camera phones launched
- 2003** **First EDGE networks go live**
GSMA creates new CEO-level Board
Membership of GSM Association breaks through 200-country barrier
Over half a billion handsets produced in a year
- 2004** **GSM SURPASSES ONE BILLION CUSTOMERS**
More than 50 3GSM networks live
GSM Association and Ovum announce market data venture: Wireless Intelligence



- 2005** GSM surpasses 1.5 billion customers
GSM dominates over 3/4 of wireless market
First HSDPA network goes live
Over 100 3GSM networks launched
120+ 3GSM handset models launched or announced
First ever sub-\$30 mobile phone announced
Over one trillion SMS sent in the year
- 2006** **GSM SURPASSES TWO BILLION CUSTOMERS**
3GSM World Congress Barcelona breaks **record attendance**
Over 120 commercial 3GSM networks in more than 50 countries and almost 100 million subscriptions
Approximately 85 HSDPA networks in commercial launch by year end
66 HSDPA devices available from 19 suppliers, including 32 handset models
GSMA membership exceeds 900 companies (including over 700 operators)
Over 980 million handsets sold by year end
- 2007** Heading towards 2.5 billion GSM customers
Further HSDPA network launches and introduction of HSUPA
GSMA celebrates 20th anniversary

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