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China

China Mobile to launch commercial TD-SCDMA in April

Spreadtrum Communications one of China's leading wireless baseband chipset providers, reports that China Mobile (CMCC) has announced commercial deployment of TD-SCDMA technology beginning in April.

Spreadtrum chairman & CEO, Dr Ping Wu, said: "We are very excited with this key development in the commercialisation and deployment of TD-SCDMA technology in China. Our friends, customers, and partners are also extremely pleased to see TD-SCDMA technology reach this milestone.

"Today's announcement demonstrates China Mobile's strong commitment to commercialise the TD-SCDMA technology and includes a host of measures to facilitate market acceptance of this technology including attractively priced calling plans, availability of six subsidised handset models, availability of USIM cards for consumers who purchase TD-SCDMA handsets through other channels, demo centres in eight cities, financial incentives for resellers, publicity campaigns, and after-sale customer support.

"We are pleased to see that two of our customers received over 50 percent of the initial round of 60,000 handset order from China Mobile in January. As additional handset orders are placed in future rounds, we believe our portfolio of TD-SCDMA products and support will enable our customers to continue to benefit from these upcoming deployments."

Spreadtrum developed the first single-chip dual-mode TD-SCDMA/GSM baseband chips (the SC8800D) in 2004 and the first multi-mode HSDPA/TD-SCDMA/GSM/GPRS baseband chip (the SC8800H) in 2007. The company also offers a single-chip TD-SCDMA/HSDPA solution optimised for data cards (the SC8800S) and its Quorum subsidiary announced a TD-SCDMA/GSM/GPRS/EDGE RF transceiver. Spreadtrum's TD-SCDMA chips have also been used in the commercial products that provide MBMS support and the TD-SCDMA USB modem cards.

India

Piracy causing huge losses to entertainment industry

The US-India Business Council (USIBC) has released a new study that it says shows huge job and revenue losses to the Indian economy as a result of piracy in the burgeoning entertainment industry.

The study - 'The Effects of Counterfeiting and Piracy on India's Entertainment Industry' - prepared for USIBC by Ernst & Young India - shows as much as Rs160 billion (\$US4b) and as many as 800,000 direct jobs are lost each year due to piracy.

Speaking at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) FRAMES 'Business of Entertainment' Conference, USIBC president, Ron Somers, said: "This study estimates that the Indian entertainment industry loses some 820,000 jobs and about \$US4 billion each year to piracy. This is an enormous and unacceptable magnitude of loss - by any measure."

The piracy study was commissioned as part of the USIBC-FICCI Bollywood-Hollywood Initiative. It covers film, music, television and video games and has been funded by the Global Intellectual Property Centre of the US Chamber of Commerce, which aims to highlight the value of intellectual property, as well as illuminate the adverse impact theft and piracy have on creativity and innovation.

FICCI secretary general, Dr Amit Mitra, said: "This study shows that the best way to make the boom in the Indian entertainment bigger is to stop the affliction of piracy. For the average Indian who wants to increase his or her chances for being employed in Bollywood and associated industries, fighting piracy is a place where all our collective efforts must start.

"The media and entertainment industry in India is an industry of the future. India's entertainment industry already generates more than \$US11 billion annually for the country, growing at a combined annual rate of over 18 percent. If we can stop piracy, these industries will grow even faster and employ more Indian workers."

Farokh T Balsara, national sector leader, media and entertainment for Ernst & Young India, said: "Our Mumbai office collected data for this study from on the ground - via direct interviews with stakeholders from the Bollywood entertainment industry. We looked at the industry from every angle - films, music, TV, radio, and electronic games. The story was the same across the board: if we can slow or stop piracy, a direct correlation in the generation of wealth and employment will be the result."

Somers added: "This study is only the beginning. Now that we have documented the job and revenue losses to the Indian entertainment industry from piracy, we intend to continue fighting piracy across the board. We will strive to bring these findings to the attention of the average person in India. We will attempt to enlist more effectively the US and Indian governments to cooperate in fighting the scourge of piracy in India, as well as in the US and worldwide. We strongly support passage by India of optical disc legislation that will thwart piracy in this important industry.

WiFi boom forecast

WiFi technology adoption is on the rise in India and is enabling social and economic development across the region, according to new research sponsored by the Wi-Fi Alliance and conducted by Tonse Telecom.

The report, titled "WiFi in India: A Key Enabler of Economic, Social and Community Development," cites growing laptop sales, rising broadband penetration, and pervasive use of mobile phones for rich content transfer as key harbingers of widespread WiFi use among a growing segment of India's more than 1.1 billion citizens.

The study forecasts that by 2011-2012, the market for WiFi networking gear and services (excluding laptops, handsets, and chipsets) in India will top \$US890 million, a 36 percent compound annual growth rate from 2008. It builds on previous research sponsored by the WiFi Alliance and released in February 2007.

The report says that with real estate development exceeding 30 percent annual growth, deployment of WiFi networks in new residential, retail and corporate construction is a key opportunity for Wi-Fi device manufacturers and service providers.

The report profiles the work of a non-profit organisation, Byrraju Foundation, which leverages WiFi technology to connect rural farmers to experts in agriculture, remote patients to doctors, and young villagers to training and employment opportunities. Also profiled is startup venture O-Zone which has set its sights on urban development, bringing WiFi service to consumers and mobile workers at home, in public places, and on the corporate campus.

"We have numerous members both within and outside of India who have engaged in this exciting market, and clearly there is plenty of opportunity," said WiFi Alliance executive director Edgar Figueroa.

According to the report, WiFi adoption is likely to occur via handsets as well as notebook computers in India. India's more than 240 million cellular subscribers

increasingly use handsets for entertainment and social networking applications. With WiFi increasingly deployed as a feature on the handset and the WiFi hotspot footprint on the rise, many Indian residents are likely to use WiFi without ever owning a computer.

The paper is available for free download at <http://www.wi-fi.org/>.

VMware pumps \$US100m into R&D in India

Virtualisation specialist, VMware, says it will invest \$US100 million by 2010 to expand its R&D operations in India.

VMware already has a strong presence across India with offices in Bangalore, Pune, Chennai, Delhi, and Mumbai. The additional investment will go to create a new 800 square metre development centre in Bangalore and to double the company's Indian engineering organisation to more than 1,000 people in the next two years.

Announcing the move, VMware president and CEO Diane Greene, said: "India has both an excellent technical education infrastructure and outstanding people. India is also one of our fastest growing markets and where we have increasingly important system integrator partners. For these reasons, we are now substantively increasing our investment in India."

VMware entered India in 2004 and now claims to have more than 300 customers and more than 160 channel partners in the country. It employs nearly 700 people, including more than 500 developers, across India and says it has established strong ties to Indian universities IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, NIT Trichi, NIT Surathkal, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the RV College of Engineering.

BSNL picks Nortel for GSM expansion

BSNL has chosen Nortel to expand its southern GSM network with what according to Nortel is a very aggressive roll-out schedule in a deal worth in excess of \$100m.

"Since 2004, Nortel has worked closely with BSNL in rolling out mobile service to some seven million customers in the southern and eastern parts of India while ensuring the network is cost-effective and implemented according to BSNL's aggressive timelines," said Hitesh Lokhandwala, managing director, Nortel India. "This new contract award reflects BSNL's confidence in Nortel to achieve these targets, and is further proof that in one of the most competitive, dynamic and fastest-growing markets in the world, Nortel's solutions meet our customers' requirements."

Richard Lowe, president, Carrier Networks, Nortel, said: "We have redesigned our GSM portfolio with this kind of opportunity in mind, making our solution much more cost competitive, without compromising the performance, capacity and coverage...Nortel offers an immediate solution for today's high-growth markets, and a clear migration path to 4G as operators across India eye the evolution of their networks to offer higher-bandwidth services in the near future."

Nortel's deployment of the BSNL network expansion is already underway and is expected to be completed towards the end of 2008.

Acme Tele Power to help Nokia Siemens be more 'green'

Nokia Siemens Networks will collaborate with India's Acme Tele Power to provide energy efficient radio cell sites to telecoms operators.

The two companies will jointly explore new environmentally friendly initiatives that "improve networks' environmental performance and positively impact customers' competitiveness and profitability." They will also establish a joint development lab in

India to examine future opportunities, specifically around remote energy monitoring solutions.

According to Manoj Upadhyay, managing director, Acme Tele Power, "We have a good understanding of emerging markets and have devised a wide range of products and solutions that effectively address the cost efficiency and energy management challenges that typically face operators in these markets...Acme's products reduce operation costs at cell sites by up to 40 percent through efficient energy management. They also contribute directly towards reducing green house gas emissions through optimising diesel generator set operations."

BT opens global operations centre at Gurgaon

BT has announced the opening of its global operations centre at Gurgaon that will employ up to 300 staff to run systems and processes for the various BT lines of business in addition to providing functional support to group functions such as procurement, legal, finance & HR.

According to BT the centre is part of its global sourcing strategy under which it builds global centres of excellence in various geographies according to local presence of talent and expertise. Other centres are located in Hungary, Brazil and China.

Speaking at the opening, BT CEO Ben Verwaayen said: "India is a critical market for our global growth strategy. It has a highly skilled workforce, supportive government, and global capabilities. Only companies who recognise and harvest talent on a global basis will achieve a new level of competitive advantage."

BT says it accounts for two percent of India's \$US50 billion IT and BPO exports and is planning to source more over the years.

Singapore

IDA releases list of qualified NBN bidders

The Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) has released a list of bidders qualified to respond to its Next Generation National Broadband Network (Next Gen NBN) RFP.

The Government plans to connect all homes and businesses with fibre by 2015, delivering access speeds of up to 1Gbps from 2010. The IDA has created a three-layered model: a NetCo to design, build and operate the passive infrastructure; an OpCo to deploy network infrastructure (routers, switches) and act as a wholesaler of broadband capacity; and multiple retail service providers that will use the underlying infrastructure to deliver services.

Qualified bidders for the operating company (OpCo) RFP are Alcatel-Lucent Singapore Pte Ltd; Axia NetMedia Corporation (Canada); BT Singapore Pte Ltd; City Telecom (HK) Limited; Deutsche Telekom Asia Pte Ltd; MobileOne Ltd; NTT West; Nokia Siemens Networks Singapore Pte Ltd; Singapore Computer Systems Ltd; SingTel and StarHub Ltd.

City Telecom, StarHub and MobileOne announced last week that they had teamed up to submit a joint bid.

Organisations qualified to be Consortium lead for Next Gen NBN NetCo RFP are: Alcatel-Lucent Singapore Pte Ltd; Axia NetMedia Corporation; BT Singapore Pte Ltd; City Telecom (HK) Limited (replacing Hong Kong Broadband Limited); NTT West; Nokia Siemens Networks Singapore Pte Ltd; Singapore Computer Systems Limited; SingTel; SP Telecommunications Pte Ltd and StarHub Ltd.

Hong Kong

CSL to offer F-Secure's cellphone security service

Security as a service specialist F-Secure Corporation has formed a partnership with CSL, Hong Kong's largest mobile operator, to offer CSL customers the F-Secure Mobile Security Service.

CSL will become the first mobile operator in Greater China to provide fully integrated on-device protection and automatic over-the-air security updates to its customers under the 1010 and One2Free brands.

"CSL's F-Secure Mobile Security Service will set a new standard for the mobile industry in Asia and change how mobile security software is delivered," said Jari Heinonen, vice president for F-Secure Asia-Pacific. "F-Secure has a unique successful track record of assisting mobile operators to offer a safe smartphone user experience to their customers. By using an innovative update system via the mobile network, CSL and F-Secure can now offer a simple and effective solution to enhance the mobile Internet user experience and enjoy a safe online trading environment."

The F-Secure Mobile Security service offers a set of security features to protect against mobile malware, viruses, spyware and other unwanted attacks which can transfer through mobile networks, Bluetooth, infected memory cards or by data synchronisation.

The service will be available to all 1010 and One2Free customers through a five-month free trial period from April 8 after which it will cost \$HK18 per month. It will be pre-installed in Symbian Series 60 second and third edition smartphones, Windows 6 Professional PDA and Sony Ericsson UIQ devices. Users can also download it directly over the air to their phone.

3 Hong Kong to offer Memova Mobile email

Hutchison Telecommunications (Hong Kong) has deployed Critical Path's Memova Mobile consumer mobile email solution designed for the mass market.

To complement current enterprise email offerings, Hutchison Telecom Hong Kong chose Critical Path's mobile push email solution as a cost-effective way to address the mobile email needs of consumers, pro-sumers and SME subscribers.

Unlike enterprise solutions, Memova Mobile works on virtually any mobile phone and almost any email service and does not require users to download or install client software. Additionally, the solution claims to offer an easily managed inbox, delivering email messages from approved sources only – eliminating mobile spam and giving consumers complete control over their email experience. The service is available at \$HK8.00 to \$HK58.00 per month including a two month free trial.

Pakistan

Alcatel-Lucent to supply 100,000 IP DSLAM lines

Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has signed up Alcatel-Lucent under a multi-year agreement to deliver its broadband access technology to provide high-speed services throughout Pakistan.

Alcatel-Lucent will deploy 100,000 IP DSLAM lines throughout the country, including rural regions and outlying districts of urban centres. Alcatel-Lucent's turnkey solution will be supported by network element management tools that include provisioning, fault management and disaster recovery. Alcatel-Lucent will also provide network integration services including project management, application/software integration, installation, deployment, and testing.

Alcatel-Lucent will provide its 7302 ISAM (Intelligent Services Access Manager) product family and its 5523 ADSL Workstation (AWS) for network element management. PTCL (a subsidiary of Etisalat Telecommunication Corporation) is the largest telecommunications provider in Pakistan with 5.7 million customers.

Warid picks Ericsson for GSM/GPRS upgrade

Warid Telecom has selected Ericsson to expand and upgrade its GSM/GPRS network.

Ericsson will supply, install and commission core, radio, microwave and optical-transmission network equipment, and take responsibility for site acquisition and civil works. The contract also includes expansion of Warid's existing Ericsson mobile packet backbone network (MPBN). Ericsson will also provide network design and integration services. The equipment supplied under this contract will be managed under an existing agreement for managed services.

Marwan Zawaydeh, CEO of Warid, said: "By boosting our network capacity and quality, we are well-positioned to deliver our customers a richer mobile communications experience. This agreement represents an extension of our strategic partnership with Ericsson and builds upon Ericsson's leading technology, global experience and strong local presence."

Vietnam

Qualcomm supports IT training

Qualcomm says it is working to improve access to education tools and resources in Vietnam through the provision of CDMA2000 1xEV-DO wireless broadband services at the Community Technology and Learning Centre (CTLC) in Dong Anh.

The CTLC is part of the Training Online Programs and Incubation for Communities (TOPIC64) initiative, supported by USAID's public/private partnership agreement with Qualcomm through its Wireless Reach initiative and other TOPIC64 partners.

Wireless Reach, along with United States Ambassador to Vietnam, Michael Michalak, and TOPIC64 partners from Electricity Vietnam Telecom (EVNTelecom), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard and the Centre for Research and Consulting on Management (CRC), are working together to empower underserved communities in each of Vietnam's 64 provinces by establishing CTLCs with computers, software and Internet connectivity via 3G CDMA wireless technology.

Each organisation contributed to the project by providing software, equipment, technical support, management fees for implementing and administrating the project and wireless equipment.

Ming Li, vice-president of business development for Qualcomm, said: "TOPIC64 cultivates new learning opportunities in Vietnam through the provision of 3G Internet access and Microsoft materials that have been translated into Vietnamese with corresponding training. The CTLCs offer an avenue for local people to get trained on practical applications and skills that hopefully can translate into jobs for them."

TOPIC64 was launched in April 2006 as one of Qualcomm's first Wireless Reach projects. It seeks to educate Vietnamese citizens in basic IT, management and marketing skills by providing technical expertise via teacher training and technical support at each of the CTLCs.

With the project's 64 CTLCs established, Qualcomm and EVNTelecom have invested in upgrading the Dong Anh centre to EV-DO to enable additional services and enhanced educational learning opportunities on EVNTelecom's new broadband

wireless network. In 2006, the Development Gateway Award selected TOPIC64 from 160 projects worldwide into the seven finalists for excellence in application of ICT for communities. In 2007, the Stockholm Challenge Award also named TOPIC64 among the three international finalists for ICT application in education.

"To date, approximately 24,000 students have been trained with the centre's basic IT training program, about 840 teachers have been tested and trained about the new curriculum and teaching methodology," said Dr Tuan Pham, director of CRC. "The importance of ICT in Vietnam's education has increased significantly over the past few years, and with the upgrade to EV-DO technology, we hope to promote other online learning opportunities for rural citizens, as well as potentially work with the Vietnamese government to provide government services online."

Bangladesh

Grameen Cybernet to roll out Ericsson FTTH

Bangladesh ISP Grameen CyberNet has awarded Ericsson a contract for a FTTH network based on Ericsson's GPON technology.

The move will allow Grameen CyberNet to provide advanced broadband services such as games and video-on-demand services, to its customers. Under the agreement, Ericsson will deliver central office optical equipment and devices for the home based on its EDA 1500 access product line, plus infrastructure such as fibre systems and cables. Ghulam Mohiuddin, managing director of Grameen CyberNet, said: "This deal is a milestone in the evolution of broadband services in Bangladesh.

Grameen CyberNet, founded in 1996, is a joint venture of Grameen Fund, the venture capital arm of Grameen Bank, and CITech Company Ltd, a private computer and Information technology distributor.

Indonesia

PT Telkom rolls out nationwide MPLS net

PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia (PT Telkom) has chosen Alcatel-Lucent to deploy a national Data Recovery Service (DRS) network connecting ten cities across the country.

PT Telkom is transforming its IT network by migrating the connectivity of its data centres to IP/MPLS to facilitate administrative operations such as centralised billing. Under the terms of the contract, Alcatel-Lucent will deploy its 7750 and 7710 service routers and the 7450 ethernet service switch.

Pan Asia

AT&T & NTT join Trans- Pacific cable consortium

AT&T and Japan's NTT Communications have joined the six original members of the Trans-Pacific Express Consortium which is building a new 18,000km submarine cable between the Asia-Pacific region and the USA.

Following NTT Comm joining the project, a new link will be added to Japan, in addition to the earlier planned landing sites in mainland China, Taiwan, South Korea and the United States. NTT Com will establish and manage a new landing station near Tokyo which will provide connectivity to other submarine cables in the region. The new link is expected to be completed by March 2009 and the Japan-US link by early 2010.

Ihab Tarazi, Verizon Business vice president of global network planning, welcomed both AT&T and NTT to the consortium saying that the Japan extension of the TPE

system would add additional diversity and capacity to its meshed Asia-Pacific network. "NTT's participation is great news for our multinational customers, who will benefit from an additional link with Japan. In addition to our charter membership in the TPE, Verizon Business already is a member of Japan-US undersea cable system. Our customers with locations in Japan will benefit from direct connectivity to mainland China, Taiwan and South Korea. In Japan, Verizon Business has fibre connections to our customers in major cities such as Tokyo and Osaka."

AT&T gains diversity

AT&T was a founding member of another consortium, Asia-America Gateway, announced in June 2006 that is building a similar US Asia cable. Other members include AiTi of Brunei Darussalam, CAT Telecom (Thailand), PLDT (Philippines), Reach (Hong Kong), StarHub (Singapore), Telekom Malaysia (Malaysia) and VNPT (Vietnam).

Asia-America Gateway will connect Malaysia and the USA via Hong Kong, the Philippines, Guam and Hawaii, with branches into Singapore, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam. It is planned to be ready for service in late 2008. It won the 'Most Innovative Project' award at the World Communication Awards in London in September 2007. AT&T said that its membership of TPE would enable it to enhance the reliability of its network "by providing more diversity for the traffic that is generated throughout the Asia-Pacific region to the United States."

In the fourth quarter of 2006 the six original consortium participants - China Netcom, China Telecom, China Unicom, Chunghwa Telecom, Korea Telecom and Verizon Business - began constructing the southern route of TPE which will direct link the United States and Asia, including Mainland China, South Korea and Taiwan. The China-US portion is scheduled to become operational in August 2008 but the consortium announced earlier this month that it was hoping to activate this portion in advance of the Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

The final splice on the US-to-mainland China segment is scheduled for late April. System integration and testing will begin immediately afterwards and will conclude with the provisional network acceptance, followed by system activation in July. "This is one of the most aggressive submarine cable builds I've been involved with in more than 15 years," said Tarazi.

The TPE cable will have an initial capacity of up to 1.28Tbps and be expandable to 5.12Tbps. Unlike any previous cable, individual customers will be able to gain access to an entire 'wavelength' channel with a capacity up to 10Gbps.

BT completes Frontline acquisition

BT has completed its acquisition of Frontline Technologies, saying it will continue to operate as a distinct entity, BT Frontline.

The deal was announced in December 2007 with BT saying it would pay around \$S202m for the company. As BT Frontline the business will provide IT consulting, IT infrastructure services, systems integration and IT outsourcing to local, regional and multinational customers with a strong presence in the financial services, transportation, manufacturing, telecommunications, education, healthcare and public sectors. BT says it will continue to operate in the region under the BT brand-name, alongside BT Frontline. "By using this co-branding approach BT Frontline will be able to maintain and leverage the regional brand equity and goodwill of the Frontline name."

According to BT, Frontline "has an excellent reputation for delivery of complex solutions and network management services within the Asia Pacific region." It has undertakings in Singapore, Malaysia and Dalian, China which will immediately operate as BT Frontline.

Other Frontline subsidiaries will continue under their existing brand names. These include: Accel Frontline (India) – a joint venture in which BT Frontline holds 51 percent and is listed on the Indian National Stock Exchange and the Bombay Stock Exchange; and MDCL Frontline based in Beijing in which BT Frontline holds a 47 percent stake; G-Able Co. Ltd, an associated company in Thailand As part of its strategic partnerships with Sun Microsystems, BT Frontline has also set up a number of joint venture companies with Sun Microsystems in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

BT claims that Frontline brings to BT Asia Pacific "approximately 5,000 highly skilled and professional people whose reputation for delivering complex solutions and network management services perfectly complements BT's strategy." Including BT Frontline's operations, BT Asia Pacific will now have over 27,000 employees, directly employed or working in joint ventures, in the region.

According to BT, "This acquisition significantly increases BT's talent pool at an important time when BT has strong growth ambitions for the Asia Pacific region. BT has heavily invested in the region over the last three years and expects to continue to grow its operations and better serve customers.

Allen Ma, president of BT Asia Pacific said: "The BT Frontline business dovetails well with BT Asia Pacific's offering...For our MNC customers operating in the region and for regional companies expanding globally, our accelerated move into the IT solutions space will provide a single supplier relationship with a broad portfolio of managed network and IT services in China, India and SE Asia."

NTT Com launches global unified threat management service

NTT Communications has launched a global unified threat managed service.

It is designed to provide customers of NTT Com's Arcstar global IP-VPN service with integrated services for planning, constructing, managing and implementing protection against network security threats. Global UTM uses a range of security technologies. A service package typically includes modules for integrated firewall, IPSec VPN, intrusion protection system, antivirus content and spam filtering.

NTT Com will launch the service in Australia, Brazil, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, US and Vietnam beginning April 1. Three levels of service will be available depending on client needs. Security incidents will be managed by NTT Com's security operation centre which specialises in root-cause analysis, incident remediation and other security-management measures.

According to NTT Com, multinational companies are demanding security-management services on a single platform to help them prevent or minimise increasingly sophisticated threats to their network security. In particular, multinationals need to be able to manage server, PC and firewall security locally and contain security incidents before they spread throughout their global networks. NTT Com says a key option is the real time event notification service, which provides immediate notification of any security threat exceeding a client-specified level.

North Asia role for Alcatel ANZ CEO

The head of Alcatel Australia and New Zealand, Hilary Mine, has been appointed president for Australasia and North Asia.

She will be responsible for the company's business in South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong, Macau and the Pacific Islands in addition to Australia and New Zealand. She will continue to based in Sydney. Sean Dolan has been appointed deputy leader for the Australasia and North Asia region.

Technology

IMS standards "will stabilise in 2010"

According to Pyramid Research, IMS standards will stabilise in 2010, spurring confidence in the reference architecture and faster innovation of networked services and business models.

"IMS standards-development now finds itself in a state of reorganisation. The strategic value and import of IMS as a service architecture has led, paradoxically, to the emergence of several interrelated initiatives within different standards bodies, consisting principally of the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP), the 3rd Generation Partnership Project 2 (3GPP2), the International Telecommunications Union's Telecommunication Standardisation Sector (ITU-T), the European Telecommunications Standards Institute's Telecoms & Internet converged Services & Protocols for Advanced Networks (ETSI-TISPAN) and the Open Mobile Alliance (OMA).

"And although the 3GPP and ETSI have developed an aggressive timeline for the transfer of TISPAN standardization work to 3GPP under the so-called 'Common IMS' initiative focus, the very process of process rationalisation will prove a distraction from the standards specification process itself. Pyramid Research believes that these IMS standards will stabilise in 2010, as standards bodies, platform vendors and service providers reach a critical-mass stage of consensus around architectures, security, and broad service categories.

"The rationalisation now underway among multiple standardisation efforts will largely be complete in 2009, allowing more time and energy to focus on the specification work itself. By 2010, market growth will see an inflection point, and the contribution of IMS gear revenues to the overall equipment market will ramp up vigorously, as barriers to adoption fall by the wayside."

Draft standard for higher power over ethernet

The IEEE P802.3at working group has submitted a draft of a new standard for the delivery of up to 24 watts of power over Cat5 cable and it is expected to be ratified by 2009.

The current standard for power over ethernet provides 15.4 watts on a Cat 3/Cat 5e cable. According to the Ethernet Alliance this standard "helped consolidate voice and data services using a converged network infrastructure, giving customers enormous savings and greater capabilities from their networks," and the new standard, dubbed, PoE Plus, will "bring value to ethernet by enabling key video services such as perimeter security, video conferencing and video-based IP phones for video collaborations."

NTT DoCoMo claims 250Mbps in Super 3G/LTE trial

NTT DoCoMo claims to have achieved a downlink transmission rate of 250Mbps in an outdoor test of an experimental 'Super 3G' (long term evolution) system for mobile communications.

The test system has four multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) antennas for base-station transmission and mobile-station reception in 20MHz bandwidth, the maximum under new Super 3G standards. DoCoMo began accepting proposals from suppliers for Super 3G test equipment in July 2006. By 2009 it expects to complete development of the technologies required for the launch of a Super 3G network. Detailed results of the test will be presented by DoCoMo during the CTIA Wireless 2008 tradeshow in Las Vegas on April 1.