

Vodafone K.K. to begin HSDPA field tests

Vodafone K.K. announces today it has obtained a license from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications to conduct field tests for High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) using experimental radio stations. Accordingly, Vodafone K.K. will begin field tests on 14 February with the aim of offering faster speeds on its 3G network.

Defined in 3GPP Release 5 specifications, HSDPA technology enables fast packet downlink transmissions of up to 14.4Mbps (theoretical maximum). In accordance with Radio Regulatory Council reports that view the introduction of HSPDA as appropriate, revisions to related laws and regulations are now underway in Japan. Vodafone K.K.'s field test is intended to technically evaluate HSDPA in a real field environment in order to further commercial implementation.

The field test beginning today will be conducted in the Tokyo Metropolitan area using the 2GHz frequency band.

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Reference: HSDPA

High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) is a high-speed data communication technology defined in 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) Release 5 specifications. While current W-CDMA networks offer fast data speeds of up to 384kbps, HSDPA technology makes it possible to offer high-speed services of up to 14.4Mbps (theoretical maximum). HSDPA is highly compatible with existing systems and is seen as an essential technology for the further development of high-speed services on W-CDMA networks.

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- Vodafone Group is the world's leading mobile carrier and as of the end of December 2004, had equity interests in 26 countries and 416.4m venture customers, with a further fourteen partner networks.

About Vodafone K.K.

Vodafone K.K. is a leading mobile operator in Japan with over 15 million customers and a subsidiary of Vodafone Group Plc, the world's largest mobile community. The Tokyo-based company offers a wide range of sophisticated mobile voice and data services including Vodafone live!, which provides e-mail and internet access to 85% of its customers, and Sha-mail, the pioneering picture messaging service first introduced in November 2000 that now has over 12 million users. In December 2002, Vodafone K.K. launched the world's first commercial 3G W-CDMA service based on 3GPP, the international standard. Vodafone K.K.'s 3G service offers its customers fast data speeds in Japan and roaming on 152 networks in 113 countries and regions as of 14 February 2005. For more information, please visit www.vodafone.jp