



Groundbreaking HSPA pilot in the 1800 MHz band to boost the UMTS1800 ecosystem

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UMTS 1800 to increase 3G capacity in order to address increasing demand from operators and consumers

Today, leading mobile operator Orange announces it will engage in a joint trial with telecommunications equipment and services supplier Ericsson and chipset provider Qualcomm Incorporated to test HSPA in the 1800 MHz band, in order to show the technology readiness and stimulate the 1800 MHz HSPA ecosystem.

The HSPA trial in the 1800 MHz band will be conducted on the Orange network in France starting in November 2010, using Ericsson base stations and Qualcomm-based devices. Both, base stations and devices, will support 2G at 900 MHz and 1800 MHz and 3G/HSPA at 900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2.1 GHz.

The strong growth of smartphones and Mobile Broadband devices such as USB sticks or connected computers stresses the need for more capacity in mobile networks. Using existing 2G frequency bands, like the 1800 MHz band, for 3G connectivity is a cost effective and straightforward way to address this increasing demand from operators and consumers. Supported by the EU Commission's decision to open up GSM spectrum for HSPA, the companies plan to enhance their Mobile Broadband offerings by developing HSPA in the 1800 MHz band.

"Orange already uses HSPA in the 900 MHz band to expand 3G coverage. By running HSPA on the 1800 MHz band as well we will better utilise all existing spectrum resources to enhance customer experience for Mobile Broadband", said Alain Maloberti, VP Network Architecture & Design, Orange Group. "Deploying HSPA in the 1800 MHz band is the fastest and most cost effective way for an operator to increase network capacity due to the small impact on both network infrastructure and devices. UMTS1800 is the natural choice to boost 3G capacity".

Ulf Ewaldsson, Vice President and Head of Product Area Radio at Ericsson, says: "Ericsson is ready to offer products and solutions that support HSPA on the 1800 MHz band. We are happy to work with the chipset industry for consumer devices and France Telecom Orange, one of the world's leading operators, on this

groundbreaking activity. Together we are shaping the new usage of existing 2G frequency bands, enabling a mass-market ecosystem for Mobile Broadband, also for the 1800 MHz band.”

“HSPA in the 1800 MHz band is a very important development in a proven 3G technology for the industry. We are pleased to be engaged with Orange and Ericsson for this trial,” said Enrico Salvatori, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Qualcomm CDMA Technologies Europe. “Qualcomm offers industry-leading flexibility with our RF solutions to help take advantage of opportunities such as HSPA in new frequency bands.”

Ericsson's offerings for the 1800 MHz band are based on its multi-standard RBS 6000 series of base stations. These energy-efficient base stations support all radio technologies in the same base station. Ericsson's solutions help operators leverage their network investments by providing optimal voice communication and mobile broadband services. Ericsson employs scalable architecture and allows seamless network expansion, providing an efficient migration path to broadband, regardless of the legacy technology in place.

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About Orange

Orange is the key brand of France Telecom, one of the world's leading telecommunications operators. With almost 131 million customers, the Orange brand covers internet, television and mobile services in the majority of countries where the Group operates. At the end of 2009, France Telecom had sales of 44.8 billion euros (22.1 billion euros for the first half of 2010). At 30 June 2010, the Group had a total customer base of 182 million customers in 32 countries. These include 123.1 million mobile customers and 13.2 million broadband internet (ADSL) customers worldwide. Orange is the number three mobile operator and the number three provider of broadband internet services in Europe and, under the brand Orange Business Services, is one of the world leaders in providing telecommunication services to multinational companies.

With its industrial project, "conquests 2015", Orange is simultaneously addressing its employees, customers and shareholders, as well as the society in which the company operates, through a concrete set of action plans. These commitments are expressed through a new vision of human resources for employees; through the deployment of a network infrastructure upon which the Group will build its future growth; through the Group's ambition to offer a superior customer experience thanks in particular to improved quality of service; and through the acceleration of international development

France Telecom (NYSE:FTE) is listed on Euronext Paris (compartment A) and on the New York Stock Exchange.

For more information (on the internet and on your mobile): www.orange.com, www.orange-business.com, www.orange-innovation.tv

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About Ericsson

Ericsson is the world's leading provider of technology and services to telecom operators. Ericsson is the leader in 2G, 3G and 4G mobile technologies, and provides support for networks with over 2 billion subscribers and has the leading position in managed services. The company's portfolio comprises mobile and fixed network infrastructure, telecom services, software, broadband and multimedia solutions for operators, enterprises and the media industry. The Sony Ericsson and ST-Ericsson joint ventures provide consumers with feature-rich personal mobile devices.

Ericsson is advancing its vision of being the "prime driver in an all-communicating world" through innovation, technology, and sustainable business solutions. Working in 175 countries, more than 80,000 employees generated revenue of SEK 206.5 billion (USD 27.1 billion) in 2009. Founded in 1876 with the headquarters in Stockholm, Sweden, Ericsson is listed on OMX NASDAQ, Stockholm and NASDAQ New York.

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