What is IMT-2000/UMTS?

Existing second-generation mobile telecommunications systems (e.g. GSM) were primarily developed for voice telephony. However, the air interfaces only permit simple data services involving transfer rates of up to 9.6 kbit/s. For "Phase 2+" of GSM, higher data transmission rates of up to 115 kbit/s are possible.

With IMT-2000/UMTS, this restriction no longer exists: IMT-2000/UMTS will make it possible to provide personal, mobile, broadband multi-media services with transmission rates of up to 2 Mbit/s. The range of services possible with IMT-2000/UMTS will also include new broadband multi-media applications, such as video, as well as the existing voice telephony and data transmission services.

IMT-2000/UMTS satisfies the need of mobile users for access to the various multi-media services that are currently available and those yet to be developed (Internet/intranet, video telephony, online shopping, e-commerce, video-on-demand, etc.), irrespective of location and tailored to their individual requirements.

As IMT-2000/UMTS is a further development of existing mobile networks and services and not a replacement for them, the step from GSM to IMT-2000/UMTS should be regarded as an evolution of the mobile telecommunications market rather than a revolution. IMT-2000/UMTS offers existing GSM operators a great business opportunity to expand their range of services. The great innovation potential of multi-media applications should also encourage new players onto the market, whether they are operators, service providers or content providers, and not necessarily just from the telecommunications sector, but from other areas affected by IMT-2000/UMTS such as information technology and the media.