

New GSM operators in UK

Steve Kennedy

NetTek Ltd



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GSM in the UK

- First Ofcom Spectrum Auction
- Licensees
- Low Power GSM industry group
- Operator Resistance
- MNP
- Ofcom to the rescue
- Future



First Ofcom Spectrum Auction

- March 2006 Technology Neutral Spectrum Auction for GSM Guard Bands (1781.7 - 1785 MHz paired with 1876.7 - 1880 MHz) under the regime of the Communications Act
- 12 Licenses awarded
 - Spring Mobile lowest bid £50,110
 - COLT highest bid £1,513,218
- 15 channels available (about 112 voice channels)
- Max 200mW, mast height can not be more than 10m
 - Can mount on a building
- Though license is technology neutral, most licensees expected to utilise for low power GSM
- Ofcom consider licensees full GSM operators



Licensees

Licensee	Amount Paid
British Telecommunications PLC	275,112
Cable & Wireless UK (England)	51,002
COLT Mobile Telecommunications Ltd	1,513,218
Cyberpress Ltd	151,999
FMS Solutions Ltd	113,000
Mapesbury Communications Ltd	76,660
O2 (UK) Ltd	209,888
Opal Telecom Ltd	155,555
PLDT (UK) Ltd	88,889
Shyam Telecom UK Ltd	101,011
Spring Mobil AB	50,110
Teleware PLC	1,001,880



Low Power GSM industry Group

- Ofcom mandated self-regulation
- Mobile200 formed
- Sets out various processes
 - Disputes
 - Territorial
 - Site Database (equiv to operator Sitefinder)
 - Self regulation
- O2 odd member as they're a "real" operator



Operator Resistance

- Current MNOs initially very reluctant to recognise new entrants
- Some refused to even switch number ranges
 - New operators were given 07 allocations
 - Still refuse to switch WVoIP operators
- New entrants not “real” GSM operators
- No one has yet managed to connect to an operator



MNP

- Mobile Number Porting run by the 5 MNOs
- Each has power of veto on new joiners
 - Oddly they haven't let anyone join
 - BT has been trying
- Operate as closed shop



Ofcom to the rescue

- Various complaints to Ofcom
- Operators suddenly changed their views
 - Rushed to send interconnect agreements
- Ofcom called a meeting between Mobile200 and MNOs
 - Ofcom stated LP GSM operators were licensed GSM operators
- OSG mandated to allow MNP between all operators
 - Have 2 months to set-up systems to allow access to porting system



Future

- LP GSM operators will offer innovative services
 - Private GSM (PMR replacement with PBX connectivity)
 - Campus
 - In-building
 - Localised ethnic GSM services in conjunction with foreign operators
 - Micro payment system
- Can also have in-roads to VAS
 - SMS/MMS
- Threat to MNO traditional business



UK GSM

Thank you for listening!

Email: steve@nettek.co.uk



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