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MONACO TELECOM LAUNCHES 4G TRIAL

Monaco Telecom (MT), Cable & Wireless Communications' business in Monaco, has begun a trial of Long Term Evolution (LTE) mobile technology, most often described as 'fourth generation' or 4G. Monaco is one of the first countries in Europe to trial 4G technology.

A 4G network is able to deliver much faster data download speeds (up to 100 megabits per second) which are necessary as an increasing number of mobile and computer tablet users access multimedia services such as video and online gaming.

The 4G network will be available across the Principality for a group of test customers, supporting the growing use of internet and applications on mobile handsets within the Principality.

If the trial in Monaco is a success a commercial launch is planned before the end of 2013.

Martin Péronnet, CEO of Monaco Telecom, said:

"In Monaco 70% of mobile handsets sold are smartphones and in December 2010, one third of the contracts signed were for tablet computers and 3G dongles. This illustrates the growing demand for mobile data, which we are keen to support by investing in 4G."

MT is undertaking the trial with Ericsson. Ericsson is the leader in 2G, 3G and 4G mobile technologies, and provides support for networks with over 2 billion subscribers. It has currently signed 18 contracts to roll-out 4G networks across the world.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

What is 4G?

Mobile phones have been through several generations of development. The introduction of basic data services (predominantly text messaging) was called second generation (2G). As networks became faster to enable the use of multimedia services such as video calling and streamed video clips, so the term 3G was coined. A new generation of services are now being marketed as 3.5G-4G promising even faster data speeds and a more reliable service as the volume of users increases.

From an engineering perspective 4G is a key milestone in the transition from cellular networks to IP. This new technology allows fully convergent architectures, which in turn will enable users to enjoy the same experience on all types of terminals (desktop, laptop, tablet, smartphone, television, etc.). So, in future a person could pause a show on their TV, leave the house, then finish watching it on a mobile device once they reach their destination.

About Cable & Wireless Communications

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