

News Flash



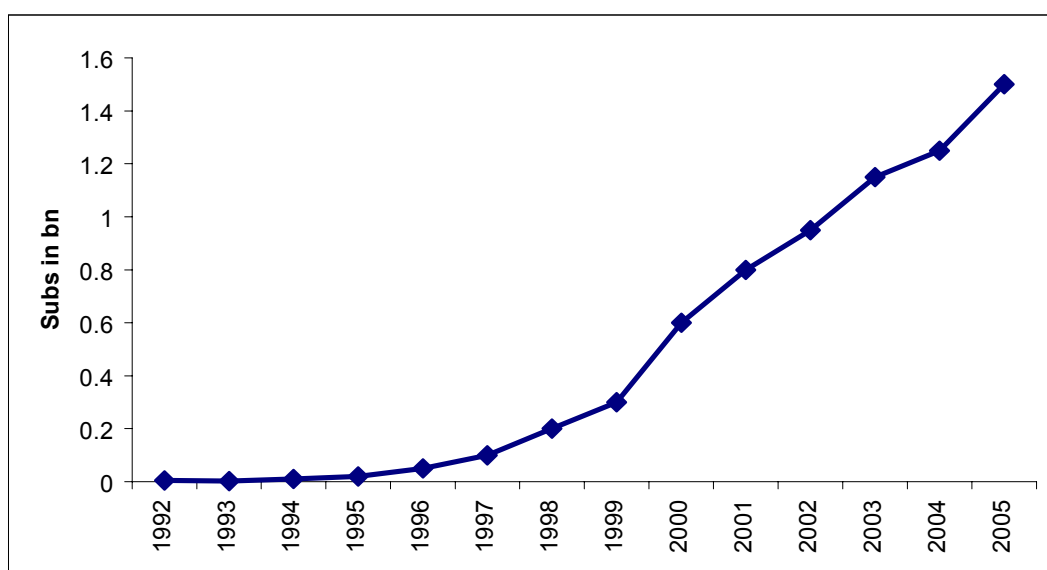
Global GSM Subscribers Exceed 1.5 billion

Global Mobile Suppliers Association (GSA) announced that the number of GSM subscribers rose 234.7 million in the first eight months of this year to take the worldwide number of **GSM subscribers to over 1.5 billion**. GSM accounted for **82% of all the new cellular customers** worldwide in the first half of 2005. The technology added more subscribers in the six months through to June than the total user base of any other digital mobile standard anywhere in the world.

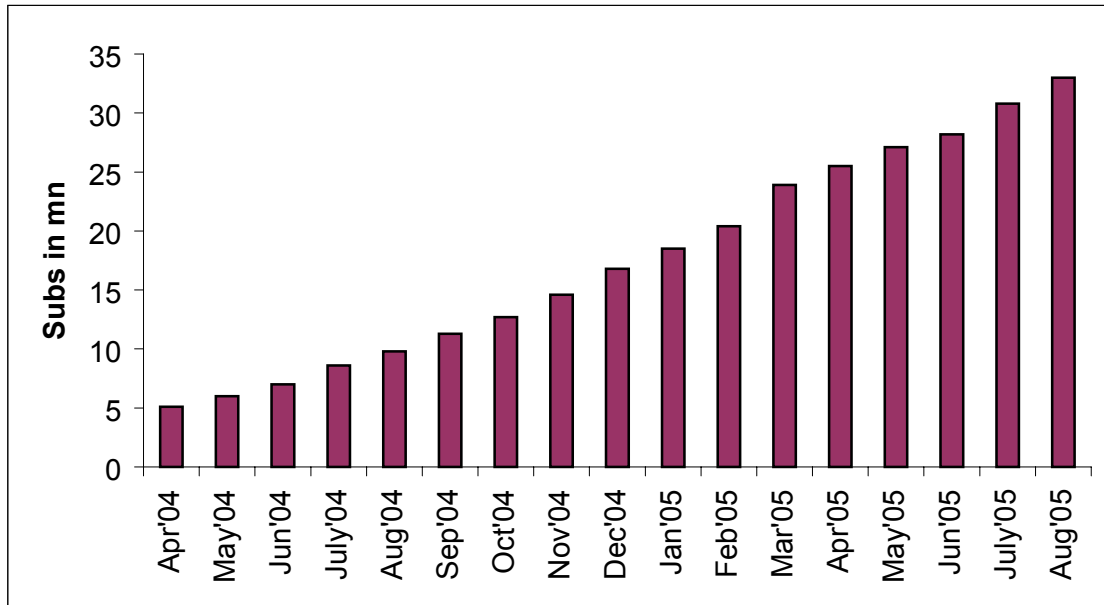
GSM is still the fastest growing wireless standard in the Western hemisphere, recording a 38.3% market share at the end of the quarter. Meanwhile in Latin America and the Caribbean, it is outpacing CDMA uptake by a ratio of 3.5 to 1.

GSM already totaled 1.46 billion customers worldwide at the end of Q2 2005, passing the 1.5 billion milestone in August. "It took the industry over 12 years to reach one billion GSM customers," stated Kester Mann, Senior Research Analyst, Informa Telecoms & Media, "but sustained growth from rapidly expanding markets such as China, India, Russia and USA will ensure that the second billion is achieved in little over three and a half years, forecast for Q3 2007."

The graph below shows the steep growth of GSM worldwide since its launch in 1992.



Adoption of GSM upgrade path 3GSM (WCDMA) continues to power ahead, with 3GSM (WCDMA) services expanding by a remarkable 70% in the first half of the year. Worldwide there are 82 WCDMA networks and 33 million subscribers and is clearly outnumbers the other next generation technologies. The growth of WCDMA over the past year is shown below:



Source: GSA