

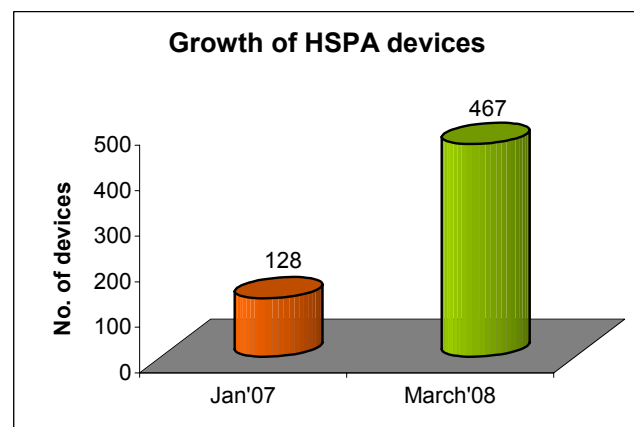
Global Mobile Broadband Connections Increase Tenfold Over The Past Year

Mobile Broadband connections globally have risen significantly over the past year. The GSM Association (GSMA), the global trade association for the mobile industry, today announced that there are now more than **32 million Mobile Broadband (HSPA)** connections worldwide compared with just over 3 million at the end of the first quarter of 2007. Momentum has gathered pace as **166 Mobile Broadband (HSPA) networks are now live in 73 countries.**

Recent figures from Wireless Intelligence indicate that global Mobile Broadband connections have risen by more than **850 percent year-on-year (Q1 CY07 – Q1 CY08)**. It is also found that the number of operators offering high speed Internet access through mobile networks had soared **44 percent in the past 10 months.**

Rob Conway, chief executive of the GSMA, said, "The uptake of mobile services such as music and video downloads as well as Internet access is rising in many countries as users are experiencing the benefits of high-speed Mobile Broadband. He also added, "we are witnessing the creation of a virtuous circle in which mobile broadband is achieving greater economies of scale, driving down the cost of handsets and equipment and enabling more and more people to enjoy easy access to media-rich services." The GSMA also stated that operators in Asia, Europe, Australia and North America were all reporting an increase in the uptake of high-speed packet access handsets, which give users access to websites at speed ranging from 1.8 Mbps to 7.2 Mbps.

Over the past 16 months there has also been a significant increase in the number of commercially available HSPA-enabled devices. The GSMA estimates the growth of HSPA devices to be more than **265%, with 128 devices available in January 2007 and more than 467 available in March 2008.** Mobile Broadband (HSPA)-enabled devices include mobile handsets, notebook PCs, data cards, wireless routers and USB modems.



“AT&T was the first operator in the world to deploy HSDPA widely, and we’re excited to see the continued growth of the technology around the globe,” said **Kris Rinne, Senior VP, Architecture and Planning at AT&T.**

Dr Hugh Bradlow, Chief Technology Officer of Telstra Corporation Ltd expressed, “Telstra’s fully HSPA enabled Next G™ network’s faster speeds, better coverage, and more compelling services and content are a huge competitive advantage”.

Ed Evans, CEO of Stelera Wireless added, “The wide availability of HSPA network infrastructure and consumer devices today drove our technology selection. We believe the GSM carriers will continue to advance HSPA and keep us in front of other competing technologies. Our analysis indicated that WiMax just wasn’t ready and vendor choices were very limited at this time.”

Boris Nemsic, CEO of Mobilkom Austria and Telekom Austria Group also said, “We launched HSPA commercially in January 2006 and by September 2006 all areas in Austria with a high population density were covered. Our overall population coverage for Mobile Broadband (EDGE, UMTS, HSDPA/HSUPA) is 99 percent.”

Source: COAI Research & GSMA