

Mobile Monday (MoMo) Pakistan

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3G/4G wireless Network Implementation discussed in MoMo Pakistan

Mobile Monday event was held on 13th June, 2011 in CIIT Abbottabad campus. Participants from Telecom Industries Pakistan (TIP), NRTC, Mobilink, PEC and Universal Service Fund (USF) were invited in the event. More than 100 participants attended this event. Faculty and students from EE department and Computer science department also attended this event. The theme of this event was “3G/4G wireless Network Implementation in Pakistan”.



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LTE the future 4G wireless network technology in Pakistan

GSM is the largest ecosystem in the world of mobile telecommunication. Broadband is not only accessing internet but rather it is a vast term, use of real time applications, teleconferencing etc. are all the examples of facilities which we can have if broadband is available. GSM tree is now being expanded with the HSPA. But as the data traffic is increasing at a huge rate so a need of new mobile telecommunication technology has resulted in the birth of Long Term Evolution (LTE).

GPP technologies account for 85% of the global market. So the latest standard in GSM/EDGE and UMTS/HSPA tree is the LTE which offers higher data rates, lower latency, higher throughput and greater spectral efficiency. LTE core network also supports the services handover between CDMA-2000/EV-DO and LTE. It supports both FDD and TDD modes.



So LTE supports mobility between various different technologies, thus it will prove to be the

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The event started with keynote address of Dr. Mahmood Ashraf, who emphasized the importance and achievements of MoMo Platform. He also explained about Best Mobile Innovation in Pakistan (BMIP) Award and asked the participants to submit their innovative projects for BMIP.



Later two presentations were given on the theme of the event by Engr. Jawwad Hafeez from USF and Dr. Khurram Aziz from CIIT Abbottabad. They briefed the audience about the challenges faced by mobile operators for 3G/4G implementation in Pakistan. They also gave the possible solutions to these challenges.



The main focus of these presentations was on current infrastructure used by operators, available spectrum, current financial condition of operators, and network ability to handle data traffic. Different arguments were presented in favour of LTE and

WiMAX as the future 4G technologies in Pakistan.



A panel discussion was initiated at the end of the event by Dr. Shahid Khattak. Many thought provoking questions were asked by the participants. The panel which included Dr. Andreas Matzke, Dr. Shahid Khattak, Dr. Khurram Aziz, Engr. Jawwad Hafeez and Dr. Mahmood Ashraf responded to the questions. Audience were informed that a quick scan over the alleged 100 million mobile subscribers reveals the large hindering blocks to any immediate 3G implementation in the country. Only 4% or so are GPRS/EDGE users; that means approximate 4 to 5 million mobile users have access to internet over their devices. This would include the Blackberry service users, who form only a speck in the entire mobile subscriber base. However, the push towards more incorporation of data services has shown an upward trend in the last year or so, with the service operators keen on hooking more users to internet applications and services.



It was inferred that there is a large gap to cover and it will take time. A major chunk of mobile users are not as tech-savvy or resourceful to purchase and utilize the added services on offer. This has prompted mobile operators to customize their extra services to SMS usage, instead of pure data or internet sessions, and the consistent reluctance to sign up for 3G investment, which is unlikely to be widely adopted by the consumer.

At the end of panel discussion, the German Expert, Dr. Andreas Matzke gave his comments on the event and appreciated the effort for establishing a linkage between academia and Industry. Dr. Shahid Khattak gave his concluding remarks and thanked the participants.



Finally souvenirs were given to the participants from Mobile industry and the panelists. The program ended with a vote of thanks to the participants from industry, panelists and everyone who helped in making this event a success. ❖



future universal mobile telecommunication technology. The networks have two choices they can either deploy HSPA/EV-DO or they can directly jump to the future technology i.e. LTE. There are multiple factors that affect the operators choices e.g. how recently the previous infrastructure was bought, available spectrum, current financial condition of operator, and networks ability to handle data traffic. These factors affect the operators in different ways depending on the current situation but it is predicted that all the networks will ultimately lead to LTE.

LTE will operate on wide range of spectrums bandwidth, but will be operating on high frequency which makes wall penetration difficult and reduces the cell sizes. LTE capabilities will further increase the use of broadband in various walks of life, thus more applications will be introduced into the market.



Tentative dates for next Mobile Monday Events:

After four successful MoMo events at Islamabad, the Rector CIIT decided to hold MoMo event at other CIIT campuses like Abbottabad, Wah and Lahore campus. The MoMo event at Abbottabad was the start of this sequel of MoMo events. These events will provide the faculty and students to interact with Local Mobile industry/Operators at these places and will provide students to work with industry on real-time problems. Faculty and students of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Departments are the main beneficiaries of this event.



A tentative schedule for MoMo event at different campuses is as follows:

- 11th Jul, 2011 Wah Campus
- 8th Aug, 2011 Islamabad Campus
- 12th Sep, 2011 Lahore Campus
- 10th Oct, 2011 Abbottabad Campus
- 14th Nov, 2011 Wah Campus
- 12th Dec, 2011 Lahore Campus
- 16th Jan, 2012 Islamabad Campus (MoMo and BMIP)

Other Events:

International Conference on Topology and its Applications (ICTA 2011)

July: 04, 2011, Islamabad, Pakistan. ■

Telecoms News

Pakistan Is Greener Than India In Telecom Sector (By Umair Asif on June 22, 2011)

The campaign from Indian NGO regarding environment asks Indian telecom operator Airtel to adopt green policy for bringing down carbon emissions. It has been found by the NGO that Pakistan telecom industry is leading India and is much greener. It means Pakistan telecommunication operators are using solar dependent equipments.

Telenor a Norway based telecom operator is Pakistan has signed agreement with Nokia Siemens for the installation of equipments that runs on solar energy and this will greatly reduce carbon emissions and will save the environment. In 2017, carbon emission foot prints will be reduced by mobile operators to 40 percent. J Gopal, Advisor Technical, DoT said:

“We will emulate the similar process in the country but will adopt it gradually. We’ll contemplate the process that the telecom sector in India will deploy similar solar solution for the entire rural region.”

In rural areas the deployment of solar powered stations is very helpful and this act can save the global environment to great extent. Whether it is Pakistan or India, one should work for a common cause that is global environment issue and every company, group or individual should play its role in reducing carbon emission.

MoMo Pakistan Web Site:

Please feel free to add your comments and ideas on the mobilemonday website.

www.mobilemonday.net.pk

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