

## Goal achieved: UMTS Forum completes its mission

### After two successful decades, mobile broadband industry association hands initiative on to the next generation

**27 February 2017:** After two decades at the forefront of realising a global vision for mobile broadband, the **UMTS Forum** announces the official completion of its activities.

The long-running and influential industry association's closure is confirmed at this year's Mobile World Congress in Barcelona. It comes more than 20 years after the organisation's genesis – first as 'the UMTS Task Force' – as conceived by the European Commission in 1996.

The last serving Chairman of the UMTS Forum from 2003, and now Secretary General of the 5G Infrastructure Association (5G PPP), **Jean-Pierre Bienaimé** highlights the cross-sector body's achievements:

*"The Forum has consistently championed the success of the IMT family of mobile broadband systems – first 3G, then 4G/LTE and now as one of the dimensions of 5G. Building on the foundations of its predecessors, each new phase in the evolution of mobile broadband has brought exciting advances in speed, capacity and advanced service possibilities for consumers and business users alike.*

*"The world 20 years ago was a different place, with no smartphones, no social media and no video sharing sites. The extraordinary market success of mobile broadband is a testament to the foresight and determination of the scientists, engineers, regulators and market players who envisioned – and successfully delivered – a completely new communications paradigm.*

*"Now we look forward to the next exciting chapter of the story, as we carry forward the learnings gained in 3G/4G to the next generation of mobile services and the opportunities they bring."*

During 20 years of activity, the UMTS Forum has worked alongside the European Commission, the ITU, national administrations, standards bodies and industry to nurture a thriving regulatory, technological and market ecosystem for mobile broadband.

As the 'voice of the market', Forum members (operators, manufacturers, administrations,...) have contributed to the timely licensing and deployment of mobile broadband globally through regular dialogue with regulators and responses to public consultations. **Today, the aggregated total of 3G & 4G subscriptions reaches 4.2 billion, including 2.2 billion 3G UMTS and 1.8 billion 4G LTE, generating close to 50 Exabytes of global traffic per month (Source: statista.com).**

A key voice in this technological and commercial success story, the UMTS Forum has delivered over a hundred reports, studies and white papers, spanning markets trends, mobile broadband services and applications, growth markets, spectrum, regulation, technology and implementation.

Throughout its existence, the Forum's strong promotional voice was maintained via a high-profile presence at conferences, seminars and workshops worldwide plus regular briefings to the media, analysts and other stakeholders.



It has faithfully contributed to the work of other bodies, notably the ITU and the Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP), of which it was elected the first-ever Market Representation Partner. It has also participated actively in the activities of the EC, ETSI and CEPT as well as other technical and commercial organisations globally.

As long ago as 2000, the UMTS Forum's efforts directly influenced the ITU's positive decision to secure frequencies for mobile broadband in the 2.6GHz range – the so-called "IMT-2000 extension band". More recently, the Forum was instrumental in helping identify spectrum in the C-band and Digital Dividend for mobile broadband services at the landmark World Radiocommunication Conference in 2007 (WRC-07).

At the same meeting, the Forum's detailed mobile traffic and spectrum forecasts were accepted by the ITU as a key input to future spectrum requirements. Five years later at WRC-12, the Forum's mobile traffic forecasts were included as an official contribution to the pivotal IMT-UPDATE report, setting the template for the subsequent development and commercialisation of 5G. Most recently, the Forum produced several studies on spectrum allocations and usage in the range 3400–4200 MHz (C-Band) as a key input to WRC-15.

Alongside its technical and spectrum work, the UMTS Forum has also explored the social impact of mobile broadband. The close emotional relationships between users and their phones were analysed as early as 2003 in a pioneering study conducted with the University of Surrey. Other influential reports have covered topics ranging from consumer electronics, connected devices and M2M to IMS and the LTE ecosystem.

*"The spectacular and continued success of mobile broadband is a testament to the immense efforts of the standardisation and radio regulations communities, led by ITU", notes Bienaimé.*

*"Without this continuing co-ordination at a global level – supported by technical, lobbying and promotional efforts of the UMTS Forum – billions of people today would be deprived of their round-the-clock connection to information and entertainment, wherever they are and whatever they are doing."*

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