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Russell Square House
10-12 Russell Square
LONDON WC1B 5EE
Tel: +44 171 331 2020
Fax: +44 171 331 2040
E-Mail: umtsforum@fei.org.uk
Web: www.umts-forum.org

PRESS INFORMATION

GSM ASSOCIATION AND CHINESE STANDARDISATION ORGANISATION JOIN 3GPP

Move will speed global standardisation process, says UMTS Forum

May 27 1999, Seoul, Korea: – **The GSM Association and China Wireless Telecommunication Standard (CWTS) today joined as new members of the** Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP).

Cross-industry group the UMTS Forum - who previously joined 3GPP as its first Market Representation partner in 1998 - has welcomed the new partners. Dr Bernd Eylert, Chairman of the UMTS Forum, remarked:

“It is great news that the Partnership Project has now been joined by the world’s leading operators’ organisation on digital cellular mobile systems as well as the standardisation body of the world’s fastest-growing mobile communications market. This move speeds the global standardisation process within the ITU, and emphasises customer-driven needs for mobile multimedia services and their availability. This is exactly in accord with the UMTS Forum’s own vision.”

During the meeting of the 3GPP Organisation Partners in Seoul, Dr Eylert emphasised that the UMTS Forum will contribute its own expertise in the area of market and business knowledge, spectrum issues and regulatory impact in the Partnership. This will help to ensure that 3G standardisation meets the requirements of the mass market, projected by the Forum to reach more than 1.7billion users globally by 2010.

“The specific views on mobile multimedia of the IT, media and content industries are also taken into account as a result of intensified dialogue already established by the Forum, which is a key value added benefit to the Partnership”, added Dr Eylert.

Notes to editors:

Established in December 1996 and currently comprising over 170 companies world-wide, the UMTS Forum is an international and independent body committed through the building of industry consensus to the successful introduction and development of UMTS to satisfy future market demands for low cost, high quality mobile personal communications. UMTS is one of the major new third generation mobile systems being developed within the framework which has been defined by the ITU and known as IMT-2000. UMTS will deliver pictures, graphics, video communications and other wide-band information as well as voice and data, direct to people who can be on the move. The Forum is a non-profit making, open association of

industry players drawn from telecommunications operators, suppliers, regulatory bodies, and the Information Technology sectors.

For press information, please contact

**Chris Solbé
UMTS Forum Press Office
Tel: +44 181 673 5089
chris.solbe@dial.pipex.com**

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