

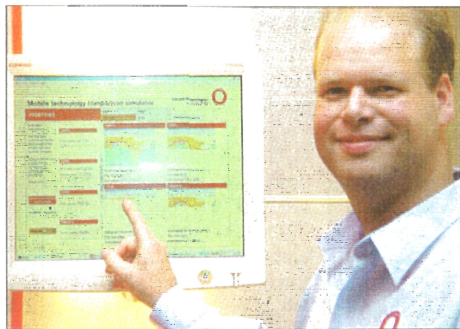
Getting down to business with 3G

FOCUSING on the benefits to come from Third Generation wireless services was Lucent Technologies, whose activities include manufacturing 3G UMTS infrastructure. Jan Piet

Wielenga, global product marketing manager, was anxious to dispel the notion that business users would gain all they needed from GPRS and could afford to ignore 3G. "The way

we see GPRS is that it's a very valuable to enterprises, he said. "The only disadvantage is that it's very restrictive in the bandwidth it offers. We don't believe that GPRS will allow you to replicate the office experience."

While UMTS can provide a 'symmetrical' data throughput approaching 384 kilobits per second in both directions, GPRS is usually not symmetrical. For



On the Lucent stand, a simulated download race between four technologies, using a 500 kilobyte map of Cannes as the payload, awarded the laurels to UMTS at 12½ seconds, with GPRS taking 117 seconds and a circuit-switched GSM connection trailing far behind at 757 seconds. A dial-up modem took 151 seconds. Lucent believes that the speed of UMTS will remove the brakes on wide-area wireless data applications. "It opens up a whole thing of working a lot smarter", declared Jan Piet Wielenga (above)



Also on the Lucent stand was this working dual-mode GPRS/UMTS data card, produced by Option. The prototype was tried out in Germany a fortnight before the show and worked at once

a mobile, sending is usually slower than receiving, often very much slower. Content providers may therefore have to modify their content to make suitable for GPRS. "It's basically WAP all over again", Mr Wielenga said. "We think UMTS is the way forward for enterprises."

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