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Lessons learnt from UMTS deployments in Europe

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Experiences from UMTS deployments in Europe show that UMTS is the only efficient path towards 3G for GSM operators. Most of the existing GSM sites are reused and turned in GSM/UMTS sites. GSM/GPRS/EDGE services can be implemented in the UMTS network (Speech, SMS, Voice Mail, MMS, WEB browsing, data transfer ...). When using a GSM/UMTS terminal, the UMTS subscribers are offered a world coverage since GSM roaming can be kept and extended. UMTS also allows new harmonised radio resources for the operators. Innovative Services are offered with UMTS. Multimode-multiband terminals are available at affordable prices. Technological development and network extension allow democratisation of offer. New technologies are beneficial for customer. The change of technology for a customer results in improved comfort and therefore in increased usage and traffic.

To conclude, UMTS deployment in 2GHz resulted in increased usage and traffic. UMTS evolutions (HSDPA/HSUPA) offer improvements in the same network and within the existing bands.