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O₂ covers almost 100 percent of the population with its mobile network

MUNICH. Telefónica O₂ Germany is rapidly moving forward the expansion of its network. The company now already covers 99 percent of the population with its GSM network. In addition, more and more customers benefit from rapid web access. By the end of the year, the entire UMTS network will be HSDPA capable. The number of EDGE sites has tripled in the last two months and the HSUPA upgrading will start this year already.

O₂ has reached the key milestone of operating an independent network as the company now achieves an almost 100 percent coverage of the population. Until the full expansion of its own mobile network by the end of 2009, O₂ customers will also be able to use the T-Mobile network in areas which are not covered by O₂. Moreover, O₂ is also rapidly moving forward the optimization of the mobile supply in buildings, and the company continues to catch up with the two big market players.

High speed for the mobile web

The market for the mobile web is developing extremely rapidly. More and more customers appreciate mobile access to the World Wide Web or retrieving emails. O₂ is even above plan regarding the expansion of the mobile high speed network. Currently, more than 80 percent of the UMTS network are HSDPA capable. By the end of the year, the network will be fully expanded. Furthermore, O₂ will start HSUPA upgrading for a more rapid uploading of data in the next couple of weeks.

Based on EDGE the mobile use of data will also become more and more rapidly in the classical GSM network. The number of sites has more than tripled to 2,600 in the last two months.

Telefónica O₂ Germany GmbH & Co. OHG belongs to Telefónica Europe and is part of the Spanish telecommunication group Telefónica S.A. The Company offers its German private and business customers postpaid and prepaid mobile telecom products as well as innovative mobile data services based on the GPRS and UMTS technologies. In addition, the integrated communications provider also offers DSL fixed network telephony and high-speed internet. Telefónica Europe has more than 44 million mobile and fixed network customers in Great Britain, Ireland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Germany.

A *Telefónica* company

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