Introduction to the conference

Wireless and cellular radio products extending telecommunications services to mobile users are now being adopted as consumer items throughout Europe. The 100millionth GSM 900/1800/1900 customer did subscribe in summer 1998. The GSM/GPRS packet radio service is being introduced and the first UMTS (3. Generation) system field trials have been performed; standardization of UMTS will be finished in autumn this year and the first operational systems are expected by 2001. IMT 2000 will follow world-wide.

Wireless DECT and PHS systems are accepted world-wide for usage indoors and for providing coverage in hot spots outdoors.

TETRA professional mobile radio systems for group communications are being introduced throughout Europe by public, private and government operators.

HIPERLAN/1 at 5.2 GHz and IEEE 802.11 products (at 2.4 GHz) are already available. HIPERLAN/2 standardization at ETSI/BRAN has stimulated comparable systems standardization in the USA and Japan to introduce wireless broadband systems able to guarantee quality of service for ATM, IP and R1394 based applications.

Self-organizing (ad hoc) networks are now a working issue at ETSI and Bluetooth is deemed to be relevant world-wide in the near future to connect mobile terminals to each other and to PCs and workstations. HIPERACCESS (broadband PMP) and HIPERLINK (PTP) systems are currently being defined. IRIDIUM has opened its service in 1998 and Globalstar is following this year. Next generation low earth orbit (LEO) satellite systems will come out soon.

Fixed ATM and/or IP based broadband networks are designed as core networks to support any wireless access techniques and to manage user mobility in a common fashion aiming at a seamless handover across access technologies. Mobile multimedia services with a high quality of service are expected soon since new wireless and cellular systems define itself by such services.

All the related exciting and rapidly progressing research and development activities will be discussed at this conference.

European Wireless'99 is comprising the 4th ITG-Conference on Mobile Communications (a German periodical conference).

It will primarily focus on advancements and innovations in wireless and cellular narrowband and broadband mobile radio and on mobility support of fixed networks. Integration of mobile radio into the telecommunications and computer communications systems (Internet) are further key factors to be discussed.

The Programme Committee is happy to

 present five invited lectures by European Commission, ETSI and mobile radio system manufacturer representatives (Ericsson, Nokia, Siemens). • be able to present after an extensive review process a conference programme in three parallel tracks comprising 83 scientific papers. This represents about 60% of the submitted papers received.

Financial Sponsors:

The following sponsors have contributed to the conference to cover snacks and drinks at lunch time on Thursday and Friday.

- Ericsson
- Nokia
- Siemens

Especially, I want to cordially thank

Mannesmann Mobilfunk GmbH

for covering the conference dinner on Thursday evening.

Scientific Sponsors:

- VDE/ITG
- . EUREL

Towards a successful conference!

Yours
Bernhard Walke
(Programme Committee Chairman)