

Did you know that ...

- Africa, with over 52 million mobile phone users, has been the world's fastest-growing mobile phone market during the past five years? In contrast, it has just 25 million wireline connections.
- every mobile phone in Japan will soon feature a navigation system?
- you can receive data a hundred times faster using the new VDSL2 standard than with a first-generation DSL connection?
- Korea is the first country in the world where mobile phone users receive digital television on their telephones and can catch the latest news, sports events, and music TV while in the subway, on the street, or in a café?
- the 2006 Soccer World Cup in Germany will see the exclusive use of Voice over IP telephony, with all 12 stadiums linked for voice and data transmission?

Mobile phone boom in emerging countries

Rarely have there been so many fundamental changes in communications technology as today – whether visible or not to the user, whether in wireline or wireless technology, whether in developed or emerging nations.

Take mobile phones. The most basic models have now reached a price level that makes them affordable to consumers in emerging countries, while the industry is working hard at reducing production costs even further. Affordable phones are attracting predominantly buyers in Africa, China, India, Russia, and South America, which constitute – and will remain – the fastest-growing segments of the mobile phone market. But the top-end applications are also springing to life, as UMTS gains momentum and started to attract wider use in 2005.

Take broadband access. While the first DSL connections were once seen as a more user-friendly way to surf the Web, the data connection via the traditional, ubiquitous telephone copper wire is slowly developing into an all-purpose medium. We make calls and also watch television through the very same data line. Media convergence of telephone, computer, and TV (triple-play) is the latest trend in the field.

Take digital television. Around the globe, a shift is underway from analog to digital television, driven by more efficient use of transmission channels. This holds true for terrestrial as well as for cable and satellite systems. And today, one can even watch television on mobile phones. Digital television receivers are a dynamic growth market.

Wherever people communicate – Infineon's chips very often make the crucial link work.