

O2 AND T-MOBILE ARE ANNOUNCING SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT ON SHARING 4G LTE NETWORKS

May 5, 2014

Mobile operators O2 and T-Mobile announce that on May 2nd, they signed an agreement on sharing 4G LTE networks. This cooperation will bring high-speed broadband coverage to the majority of the country this year. Both operators will continue using their own core network infrastructure and will retain independent business strategies.

The agreement is a result of negotiation that was announced at the end of February. Sharing of the radio infrastructure will allow quicker 4G LTE rollout than has been stipulated in the conditions of the 4G LTE auction. It will also contribute to a more effective maintenance of the network, with a positive effect on the environment, among other benefits.

„Thanks to this agreement, we will bring fast mobile internet to Czech customers in a very short time – both in rural and urban areas of the country. A shared network is also a European trend, as evidenced by similar successful projects in the UK, Sweden or France,“ says Luis Malvido, CEO of O2.

„This is a strategic step that follows on our current agreement on sharing 2G and 3G access networks,“ says Milan Vašina, CEO of T-Mobile. „On top of a faster high-speed broadband roll-out, the agreement will also bring savings that will allow further investment into the networks and services,“ adds Vašina.

Both companies will conduct the first tests in the coming weeks in order to assess the full functionality of the technical solution. After all the processes are fine-tuned in testing conditions, the commercial sharing will begin in H2 2014.

4G LTE sharing will cover the whole country, excluding Brno and Prague. O2 will become responsible for running and maintaining the network in the eastern part of the country, while T-Mobile will run the western regions of the country. The network will achieve speeds of up to 75 Mb/s (download) and 25 Mb/s (upload), up to several times higher than 3G networks. These speeds will later be upgraded.

Both T-Mobile and O2 will meet all the requirements set forth by the conditions of the spectrum auction. The sharing will affect only the radio elements of the network, the core infrastructure will remain independent. Therefore, both operators will continue competing both in the quality and speed of their service.

Contacts

Investor Relations
Telefónica Czech Republic, a.s.
investor_relations@telefonica.com
t +420 271462076

**About Telefónica Czech Republic**

Telefónica Czech Republic is a major integrated operator in the Czech Republic. It is now operating almost eight million lines, both fixed and mobile, making it one of the world's leading providers of fully converged services. The organization offers the most comprehensive portfolio of voice and data services in this country. It is paying special attention to the exploitation of the growth potential, particularly in the data and Internet sector. Telefónica Czech Republic operates the largest fixed and mobile network including a 3rd generation network, CDMA (for data), and UMTS, enabling voice, data and video transmission. Telefónica Czech Republic launched a LTE (Long Term Evolution) 4th generation mobile communication network as the first operator in the Czech Republic. The new network offers the fastest available mobile Internet nowadays. Telefónica Czech Republic is also a notable provider of ICT services.

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