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Research indicates macro networks will be insufficient in supporting excess mobile bandwidth demand

iGR's latest research shows that mobile bandwidth demand in work areas will exceed macro network capabilities by 146 percent in 2016

AUSTIN, Texas, January 23rd, 2012 – It is no secret that mobile/cellular data usage will greatly increase over the next few years, driven by ongoing LTE rollouts and the increasing adoption of smartphones, tablets and other data devices. While new network technologies may be able to handle the average level of traffic, *iGR's* research suggests that significant “pain-points” will emerge in the cellular data network that will necessitate a different approach to network architecture.

iGR's new report, *Localized U.S. Bandwidth Demand Forecast, 2011-2016*, considers data consumption by time of day and geographic location, forecasting the severity of the problem that mobile operators face today and moving forward. Ongoing *iGR* market research and bandwidth usage forecasts indicate overall bandwidth consumption continues to increase each year and will only continue to increase around peak usage hours.

Today, most cellular voice and data networks use a macro cell architecture. According to the model presented in *iGR's* new report, mobile operators experienced nearly 8 percent more traffic, on average, than their macro networks could handle in 2011. By 2016, *iGR's* model indicates that end users in congested downtown work areas will exceed the capabilities of the macro mobile networks by 146 percent. This model assumes the deployment and increasing availability of LTE throughout the forecast period. Simply put, simply deploying LTE to meet excess bandwidth demand will be insufficient resulting in no service, bad service or slow service during these capacity holes.

“In order to start intelligently preparing for the extremely data-hungry future, operators need to embrace emerging ways of handling usage spikes. This starts with understanding when and

where bandwidth demand spikes occur in any given day and the amount of bandwidth being demanded at these identified times,” says *iGR* President Iain Gillott. “Mobile data usage is never spread uniformly throughout time or space. Improving efficiency and throughput cannot be handled by LTE deployments alone. Re-engineering at the macro level coupled with new network architecture considerations need to be part of a carrier’s deployment roadmap in order to prepare for future demands from more robust devices and data-intensive applications.”

In this report, *iGR* presents a model based on extensive primary research that estimates how cellular data is consumed on average throughout an average U.S. workday, addressing the following questions:

- How much cellular data will be consumed in the U.S. through 2016?
- When does this data usage occur?
- How much of bandwidth consumption during given time periods is in excess of what a carrier’s macro cellular data network is able to deliver (on average)?
- How much bandwidth might an operator have to deliver per kilometer squared per day to fulfill the bandwidth demand that their macro network cannot deliver?

iGR’s research suggests that significant “pain-points” will emerge in the cellular data network that will necessitate a different approach to network architecture. In short, the heterogeneous network. With this type of approach, carriers stand a much better chance of weathering the massive and concentrated surges in data traffic that are already occurring and will only get worse.

For additional information on *iGR*’s localized bandwidth forecast or details on how to obtain this report, please contact Amanda Louie, *iGR*’s Director of Strategic Development, at (512) 554-1701 or by email at amandal@iGR-inc.com.

About *iGR*

iGR is a market strategy consultancy focused on the wireless and mobile communications industry. Founded by Iain Gillott, one of the wireless industry’s leading analysts, in late 2000 as *iGillottResearch*, *iGR* is now entering its twelfth year of operation. *iGR* continuously researches emerging and existent technologies, technology industries, and consumer markets. We use our detailed research to offer a range of services to help companies improve their position in the marketplace, clearly define their future direction, and ultimately improve their bottom line.

iGR researches a range of wireless and mobile products and technologies, including: smartphones; tablets; mobile applications; bandwidth demand and use; small cell architectures; DAS; LTE; WiMAX; VoLTE; IMS; NFC; GSM/GPRS/UMTS/HSPA; CDMA 1x/EV-DO; iDEN; SIP; macro-, pico- and femtocells; mobile backhaul; WiFi and WiFi offload; and SIM and UICC. *iGR* is a member of the Rural Cellular Association.

A more complete profile of the company can be found at www.iGR-inc.com.