

Where mobile end-users are concerned, what services or applications, apart from voice, currently dominate? From my observations, as a daily commuter in Stockholm, I'd say SMS and e-mail followed by text-based news, bus and metro timetables, maps and the occasional search.

For what it is worth, I also recently observed two cases of the hearing-impaired using the 3G/video capabilities of their cell phones to converse. Now, although a lot of users do not yet regularly make video calls, it was heartwarming to see them used in this context (it is one thing to read about the enabling effects of mobile technology and truly another to witness them firsthand).

In addition, who could have missed the surge in mobile internet, which had a breakthrough year in 2007? Indeed, the number of people using 3G cards or dongles with their laptops/PCs skyrocketed in Sweden with almost 500,000 modems sold here last year. And these are still early days. Just imagine the usage figures when the modems come as modules that are built in to nearly every new laptop/PC.

But won't all this growth and massive mobile internet usage (huge media files) affect network capacity and transmission speeds? If this is a concern, then know that Ericsson is already readying future cellular and fixed broadband access technologies for roll out (see *LTE: The long-term 3GPP evolution and*

*Next-generation access – Overview of present and future PON technology*).

Great strides have also been made in improving mobile handsets and the end-user experience. Not long ago, many people in the industry believed that end-users did not actually want the same services on their handheld devices as they use at work or home. Now, of course, we know better. The real issue is not *what* end-users want, but rather *enabling them to do what they want*. In this issue of Ericsson Review you can read how Ericsson is doing just that.

One example is Ericsson's end-to-end solution for remote access services (see *Remote access made simple with IMS*), which builds on the IMS and UPnP families of standards and Home IMS Gateway (HIGA serves as an intermediary gateway for connecting the device-centric consumer electronics space with the user-centric telecommunications world). Or what about Ericsson's IMS multi-access (IMA) solution (see *IMS multi-access for the IMS network*), which facilitates non-IMS access to the IMS core network and IMS services, enabling operators to provide IMS to the billions of GSM and ISDN terminals that are already in operation. Yes, you read that right. Ericsson has figured out how to give IMS services to end-users with legacy 2G (GSM) handsets! Impressed? You *should* be.



Eric Peterson  
Editor