

NSN quits WiMAX, now it is official

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By Cantab Wireless

For some time already, it has been obvious for industry watchers that Nokia Siemens Networks (NSN) is losing its interest in WiMAX technology. And now it is official, NSN has announced that it will no longer develop its own WiMAX products, instead it will be relying on its yet-to-be-announced partners to provide these products. NSN obviously thinks that it is wiser to concentrate all its assets to LTE (and to a lesser extent to HSPA+).

NSN is yet another big mobile vendor departing WiMAX. Ericsson made this decision already a long time ago by announcing that it is not interested in Mobile WiMAX. Later Alcatel-Lucent and then Nortel made the same decision, and now NSN follows them. This leaves smaller WiMAX specialists in a stronger position since they do not have to compete with the giants anymore. However, there are still some large companies in the WiMAX business, including Cisco, Samsung, Huawei, ZTE, Fujitsu and Motorola. However, it is not at all certain that the WiMAX market will be big enough for all of them.

It seems increasingly likely that WiMAX will be used as a wireless replacement of DSL lines, but rarely to provide mobile services. The technology to be used is actually Mobile WiMAX (i.e., 802.16e), but this is simply because 802.16e provides better performance even in fixed installations. Mobile WiMAX as a service has already lost the game against HSDPA and LTE.