

KDDI confirms its LTE schedule

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By Cantab Wireless

The second largest mobile phone operator in Japan, KDDI, has signed two LTE contracts with Motorola and NEC. They will provide KDDI with LTE network gear for its next generation mobile phone network.

Currently KDDI is operating a 3G network based on CDMA2000 technology, but since the upgrade path for this technology is, in practise, non-existent, KDDI has decided to adopt LTE and it is planning to launch its new network in December 2012.

However, this is probably about two years after its biggest competitor, NTT DoCoMo, is launching its own LTE network. If LTE and the broadband services it enables really take over, then KDDI with its slower 3G technology will suffer until it gets its own system running.