SAFEGUARDS
SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC NO. 149/09 SEPTEMBER 2009

WIRELESS TELECOM – UNIVERSAL CHARGING SOLUTION (UCS) IN EUROPE IN 2010

The highly publicized mobile phone Universal Charging Solution (UCS) will be available on the European markets as early as 2010. Though this UCS version will initially be compatible only with European data-enabled phones, other countries are expected to adopt similar standards really soon.

Major handset manufacturers and vendors agreed in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) announced by the European Commission (EC) in June, to the implementation of an EU-wide standard for future data-enabled phones to use a common Micro-USB socket for their chargers. This move accelerates the development of a universal charger that the GSMA wants to implement globally by 2012.

The move towards the Universal Charging Solution

At the beginning of this year, GSMA announced that several top mobile phone manufacturers signed an initiative to create a universal phone charger available worldwide by 2012. The main goals of the initiative are to reduce the number of chargers and their energy consumption and to make consumer's life easier through the "one-charger-fits-all" solution.
The GSMA agreement involves 17 of the top players in the mobile industry: 3 Group, AT&T, KTF, LG, Mobilkom Austria, Motorola, Nokia, Orange, Qualcomm, Samsung, Sony Ericsson, Telecom Italia, Telefonica, Telenor, Telstra, T-Mobile and Vodafone.

Focus on the future

The EC agreement focuses only on data-enabled phones, a direction in which the industry is already heading. By 2010 it is expected data-enabled phones will account for half of the almost 200 million phones to be sold in the EU. The universal charger will therefore further increase the market penetration of data-enabled phones.

Estimation by the EC states as consumers gradually replace and upgrade their phones, all data-enabled handsets will be using universal chargers by 2014. Initially new data-enabled phones will be sold with a standardized charger, but later on, this will become an optional accessory. Furthermore, deployment of the UCS will gradually reduce handsets prices as manufacturers will not have to include a one with every new phone.

From the consumer's point of view, the UCS will mean true freedom, with virtually any charger out there being able to reload the mobile phone's battery.

THE PLAYERS

The 10 mobile phone manufacturers in the EC agreement are the most important names in the industry, controlling around 90% of the European market. They are: Apple, LG, Motorola, NEC, Nokia, Qualcomm, Research In Motion, Samsung, Sony Ericsson and Texas Instruments. With the lead taken by these manufacturers, it is strongly expected other mobile phone manufacturers will quickly follow throughout the Globe.

UNIVERSAL CHARGING SOLUTION – REQUIREMENTS

The MoU states a series of requirements that all signatories commit to fulfill in order to make the UCS a reality. The main specifications for the External Power Supply (EPS) of Mobile Phones include:

- Micro-USB B-Plug to deliver power to the device being charged.
- Voltage supplied - 5.0 V +/- 5%.
- Maximum output current delivered of between 500 mA and 1500 mA.
- The EPS must be a Limited Power source in accordance with EN60950-1 clause 2.5
- Preferred Charging Rate, charging a battery from 10% to 90% capacity, within max.6 hours.
- Offer users adequate protection from malfunctioning EPSs by complying with relevant product safety standards
- EPS must comply with the relevant LVD (Low Voltage Directive) and EMC requirements.
- Provide users with adequate documentation to allow safe and effective use of the EPS.

The EC requirements for the UCS for mobile phones are seen as a strong push to the entire mobile phone industry to quickly develop similar measures for other regions.

UCS BENEFITS IN NUMBERS*

- **51,000 tons of materials and energy per year** will be spared by the introduction of the UCS
- **Reduction with 50%** of the number of chargers produced and energy consumed by chargers
- **Reduction by 13.6 million tons per year in green house gasses** resulting from the production and distribution of fewer chargers. This is reduction by more than a third in green house gasses emissions.

*source the GSMA

For further information about SGS Wireless, please visit our website or contact us.

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