

What is GSM? The number of networks rises to 69 in 43 countries by the end of 1994. Improved spectrum efficiency International roaming Low-cost mobile sets and base stations (BSs) High-quality speech Compatibility with Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) and other telephone company services Support for new services GSM History The following table shows some of the important events in the rollout of the GSM system.

Years	Events
1982	Conference of European Posts and Telegraph (CEPT) establishes a GSM group to widen the standards for a pan-European cellular mobile system.
	GSM makes use of narrowband Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) technique for transmitting signals.
	Presently GSM supports more than one billion mobile subscribers in more than 210 countries throughout the world.
	The initial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is signed by telecommunication operators representing 12 countries.
	GSM operates on the mobile communication bands 900 MHz and 1800 MHz in most parts of the world.
	GSM digitizes and compresses data, then sends it down through a channel with two other streams of user data, each in its own timeslot.
1989	The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) was given the responsibility of the GSM specifications.
1999	Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) came into existence and became operational in 130 countries with 260 million subscribers.

GSM is the name of a standardization group established in 1982 to create a common European mobile telephone standard. GSM is the most widely accepted standard in telecommunications and it is implemented globally. GSM is a circuit-switched system that divides each 200 kHz channel into eight 25 kHz time-slots. Listed below are the features of GSM that account for its popularity and wide acceptance.

1987 Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) is chosen as the access method (with Frequency Division Multiple Access [FDMA]). Coverage spreads to larger cities and airports. GSM stands for Global System for Mobile Communication. It is a digital cellular technology used for transmitting mobile voice and data services. Important facts about the GSM are given below –

The concept of GSM emerged from a cell-based mobile radio system at Bell Laboratories in the early 1970s. In the US, GSM operates in the bands 850 MHz and 1900 MHz. GSM owns a market share of more than 70 percent of the world's digital cellular subscribers. GSM provides basic to advanced voice and data services including roaming service.

1986 Executed field tests to check the different radio techniques recommended for the air interface. Coverage is extended to rural areas.

1997 July– 200 network in 109 countries operational, around 44 million subscribers worldwide. It has an ability to carry 64 kbps to 120 Mbps of data rates. The DCS1800 specifications are finalized.

1992 The addition of the countries that signed the GSM MoU takes place.

1993 Coverage of main roads GSM services starts ?outside Europe. Why GSM