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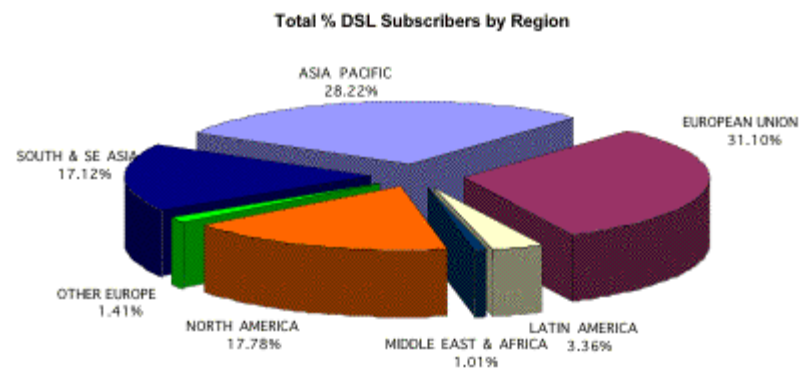
DSL ADDS 24 MILLION GLOBAL SUBSCRIBERS

- Half a million choose DSL every week Latest subscriber numbers published for January - September 2004

More than half a million people each week are choosing DSL around the world. DSL - the world's most popular broadband technology - added another 24 million subscribers in the first nine months of 2004, according to the latest data produced for the DSL Forum by industry analyst Point Topic. There are now 85.3 million subscribers - a growth of more than 39% so far in 2004.

Announcing the figures at the DSL Forum's year-end meeting, its president Tom Starr said, "By the time we next meet in February 2005, DSL subscribers will have passed the 100 million subscriber milestone - a major landmark on the way to a global mass market for this world-leading broadband technology. That will mean 10% of the world's phone lines are delivering the very real benefits of the digital society to people in every region."

European Union countries currently make up the largest regional DSL population worldwide, adding more than 9.25 million subscribers in the first three quarters of this year, to reach 26.5 million.



Source: DSL Forum and Point Topic

Latin America is now emerging as a DSL market, adding 1.2 million subscribers from January to September 2004, a growth in subscribers of more than 72%. Brazil is leading the way, gaining over 620,000 DSL subscribers, and three countries, Mexico, Argentina and Peru, have experienced more than 50% growth since the beginning of the year.

In North America, the only region where DSL does not yet dominate the broadband market, it gained almost 3.5 million new subscribers to achieve 15.1 million by the end of September 2004. The USA added 3.2 million to reach a total of 12.6 million DSL-enabled phone lines. Middle East and Africa recorded DSL subscriber growth of 59.5% in the first three quarters of 2004, led by Israel, now with 600,000 and Turkey, with almost 200,000.

Asia Pacific added almost four million subscribers, with two countries reaching the DSL Forum's first stage target for a global mass-market for broadband DSL (20% of all phone lines): South Korea (28.88%) and Taiwan (22.14%). Even with its high penetration rate, South Korea is still growing and added 280,000 to its DSL market by September 2004. Hong Kong (20.14%) also achieved mass-market status, and an additional 15 countries have a penetration of more than 10% of telephone lines. The European Union's position as the number one DSL region is reflected in substantial increases in both subscriber numbers and market penetration, with 11 countries in the top 20. The Netherlands achieved 15.52% penetration of phone lines, France 15.45% and Italy 13.41%, with the UK, at 9.49%, moving into the top 20 for the first time.

**Top 20 countries: DSL penetration of phone lines
September 30, 2004**

Ranking	Country	Penetration (DSL/100 phone lines) Q3 2004	Ranking	Country	Penetration (DSL/100 phone lines) Q3 2004
1	South Korea	28.88	11	Singapore	14.32
2	Taiwan	22.14	12	Switzerland	13.44
3	Hong Kong	20.14	13	Italy	13.41
4	Israel	19.35	14	Canada	12.87
5	Belgium	19.15	15	Spain	11.91
6	Japan	17.91	16	Norway	11.82
7	Finland	16.56	17	Sweden	11.42
8	Denmark	15.89	18	Germany	11.08
9	Netherlands	15.52	19	Austria	9.63
10	France	15.45	20	UK	9.49

Source: DSL Forum and Point Topic

China, adding 5.14 million new DSL subscribers by the end of September 2004, is the world's largest DSL population with a total of 13.7 million subscribers, accounting for more than 90% of the South and South East Asia total. Six countries now have greater than five million subscribers, and another seven countries have over a million.

**Top countries: total DSL subscribers Q3 04
September 30, 2004**

Ranking	Country	Total DSL Q3 2004	Ranking	Country	Total DSL Q3 2004
1	China	13,700,000	11	Spain	2,227,805
2	Japan	12,739,564	12	Brazil	1,633,700
3	USA	12,594,346	13	Netherlands	1,552,000
4	South Korea	6,717,251	14	Belgium	983,000
5	Germany	5,950,000	15	Australia	910,000
6	France	5,253,000	16	Hong Kong	774,000
7	Italy	3,680,000	17	Sweden	751,000
8	UK	3,335,000	18	Switzerland	717,000
9	Taiwan	2,900,000	19	Israel	600,000
10	Canada	2,568,351	20	Denmark	594,000

Source: DSL Forum and Point Topic

The ten largest DSL population countries now account for more than 80% of DSL subscribers worldwide. Tim Johnson of Point Topic commented: "This is a classic pattern for the early stages of a dynamic market. We can now see growth rates leveling off as leading countries like South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong approach 30% market penetration. But there's another cycle of growth still to come. We'll see new broadband applications beginning to take hold, like voice and video that will drive the next cycle and then, in a year or two, broadband will be going into homes that have no interest in owning PCs or surfing the Internet."

Tom Starr of the DSL Forum added, "These third quarter results clearly demonstrate the enormous strength and growth potential for DSL. In 2005, the DSL Forum will continue to facilitate exemplary DSL growth by advancing new technical developments and expanding the scope of our market education."

About the DSL Forum

DSL Forum is an international industry consortium of more than 200 leading service providers, equipment manufacturers and other interested parties focused on developing the full potential of broadband DSL to meet the needs of the mass market. With the established goal of 200 million customers by the end of 2005, DSL Forum works to streamline processes, develop specifications and share best practices that set the stage for effective deployments and explosive global DSL growth. By developing new standards and embracing new applications, DSL Forum is tailoring DSL to meet the needs of the next generation of multi-media services and the online community. Established in 1994, more information about the DSL Forum is available from its industry site www.dsiforum.org.

DSL - more than a phone line - it's a global solution.

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