

Briefs: Philippines grants four 3G telecom permits

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The Philippines has granted four companies permits to operate third-generation wireless telephone systems.

The Inquirer reported Wednesday that the permits went to the country's largest telecom companies and open the door to the first 3G deployments starting next year.

Once operational, Filipinos will have access to the standard menu of 3G services, including Internet access, video calls and mobile television.

The carriers that received permits from the National Telecommunications Commission were: Smart Communications Inc., Globe Telecom Inc., Digitel Mobile Phils. Inc. and Connectivity Unlimited Resources Inc., a new company founded by former Trade Secretary Roberto Ongpin.

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