

Google eyeing India 3G market: report

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The Business Standard newspaper quoted sources in India's telecom industry as saying <u>Google</u> may either team up with an Indian company to bid for 3G bandwidth or take on a role as a technology partner.

India is set to begin an auction of 3G radio bandwidth in January and has said foreign companies will be allowed to participate.

But non-Indian players will have to find Indian partners as India caps foreign ownership in telecommunication companies at 74 percent.



A spokesperson for California-based Google declined to comment when contacted by the paper.

Third-generation mobile services offers users high-speed access to the Internet with email and video capabilities on cellular telephones.

Experts say the auction of 3G <u>radio spectrum</u> for mobile services will put India's cellular market -- the fastest growing in the world -- on track for a new level of wireless telephony.

India's government has said it aims to raise 250 billion rupees (5.38 billion dollars) from the sale of 3G bandwidth.

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