

Wireless Internet Operators to Be Picked

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Body

South Korea plans to select high-speed wireless Internet operators next February that will become licensed for faster Internet access via mobile devices using a locally developed wireless standard, the Ministry of Information and Communication said Thursday.

The ministry said the guidelines for awarding the high-speed wireless Internet licenses should be completed by the end of September and that commercialization of the new service may start in 2006.

The new service, which is billed as a "WiBro" wireless service and formerly known as 2.3GHz portable Internet, will allow speedy Internet connection to data and video with mobile gadgets such as cell phones and personal digital assistants.

Currently, several telecom companies including KT, SK Telecom, Hanaro Telecom and Dacom are vying to get business licenses for the high-speed Internet service.

The ministry added it decided the IEEE 802.16, which includes Korea's home grown technologies, as the nation's WiBro standard.

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