



UK's 'bumbling' spectrum auction has dented LTE efforts

Whilst the US leaps ahead with LTE, our lack of quality spectrum has left the UK trailing behind, claims Spirent.

By Jennifer Scott, 9 Feb 2011 at 16:56

[Long Term Evolution](#) (LTE) technology has barely made a dent in the UK's mobile networks and it seems our lax attitude towards dividing spectrum could be to blame.

This was the conclusion of [Spirent](#), a communications and networking testing company, who told *IT PRO* LTE couldn't take off on our shores until we caught up with US attitudes.

"You cannot underestimate the importance of spectrum," said Nigel Wright, vice president of wireless product marketing, during an interview at NetEvents in Barcelona.

"The UK [is] bumbling about with the spectrum auction... and, irrespective of other technologies, the availability of spectrum - and in the US, great spectrum - is what is needed for LTE."

Wright also claimed the US had a much more competitive market driving forward the adoption, as well as development of the technology.

"Europe is definitely behind the manic competition in the US," he said. "It has gone mad."

"The thermo-nuclear attitude since T-Mobile kicked it off and the US desire for broadband anywhere has got companies worked up."

However, Wright didn't believe it was massively affecting consumers who mostly weren't in the know about the speeds that could be achieved through LTE.

"From an end user perspective, they do not need to go to LTE today," he said. "An end user couldn't care less."

"Those that are tech savvy say they want LTE today but others just want to be able to stream their content, which we can do already."

A number of LTE trials have kicked off in the UK from the likes of [O2](#) and [Alcatel Lucent](#) - partnered with [Arqiva](#) - but the technology is still not widely available.

