

New mobile generations have appeared about every ten years since the first move from 1981 analogue (1G) to digital (2G) transmission in 1992.

1973

The first public wireless phone call is made by Dr Martin Cooper of Motorola.

1979

First cell phone service, The world's first cellular telephone service started in Japan. This was a carphone only service.

1982

Mobile phone opportunities open up with the approval of mobile telephone systems and allocated analogue frequencies for use by the network.

The advent of 1G

1983

First hand portable mobile phone. Motorola launched the DynaTAC 8000X phone.

1985

UK ETACS system launched by Cellnet and Vodafone.

The advent of 2G

1991

First GSM phone the Orbitel TPU 900 is released.

1992

Orbitel achieved another first when Neil Papworth sent the world's first text "Merry Christmas" to Vodafone director Richard Jarvis.

1993

The IMB Simon phone is released with the beginnings of smartphone technology.

1997

Mercury One2One realised the potential of phones without a contract and announced the first digital pay-as-you-go service 'Up 2 You' in October

1999

In February 1999 Nokia announced the world's first phone with a WAP (Wireless Application Protocol) browser, the Nokia 7110. It was the first phone capable of browsing the internet.

The advent of 3G

2000

The Sharp J-SH04, launched in November 2000, was the world's first commercially available camera phone. The only snag: you could only use it in Japan.

2001

The Mitsubishi Trium Eclipse was the first phone to offer a full colour display in the UK.

2003

In March Hutchinson launched the UK's first 3G service, '3'.

The advent of 4G

2007

Steve Jobs announced the Apple iPhone to the world

The advent of 5G

2013++

Samsung announces it has successfully developed the world's first adaptive array transceiver technology operating in the millimeter-wave Ka bands for cellular communications.