

# Bitfone's Experience in High Growth Asia Markets

October 2, 2003 Gene Wang, CEO



# **Bitfone Background**

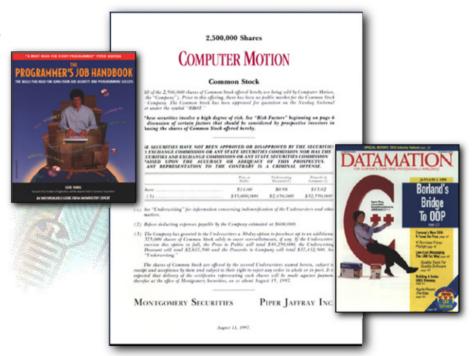
- Started in Palo Alto but moved to Laguna Niguel
- Offices in Japan, Korea, Finland and US
- Just announced customer wins with Motorola and Sony Ericsson Japan
- Raised \$35 Million From Top-Tier Investors
  - Only company to have raised money from both Nokia Ventures and Motorola Ventures
- 100% focused on OTA firmware updates for mobile phones





# Gene's Background

- Serial entrepreneur with 4 startups
  - CEO of Bitfone mobile phone firmware updates
  - CEO of PhotoAccess.com –
    Internet digital photography
  - CEO of Computer Motion –
    Voice controlled surgical robots
  - VP Marketing of Gold Hill Computers – AI on PCs
- Worked in larger corporations
  - VP and GM of Borland development tools
  - Exec VP at Symantec devtools, applications and core technology
- Extensive business in Asia

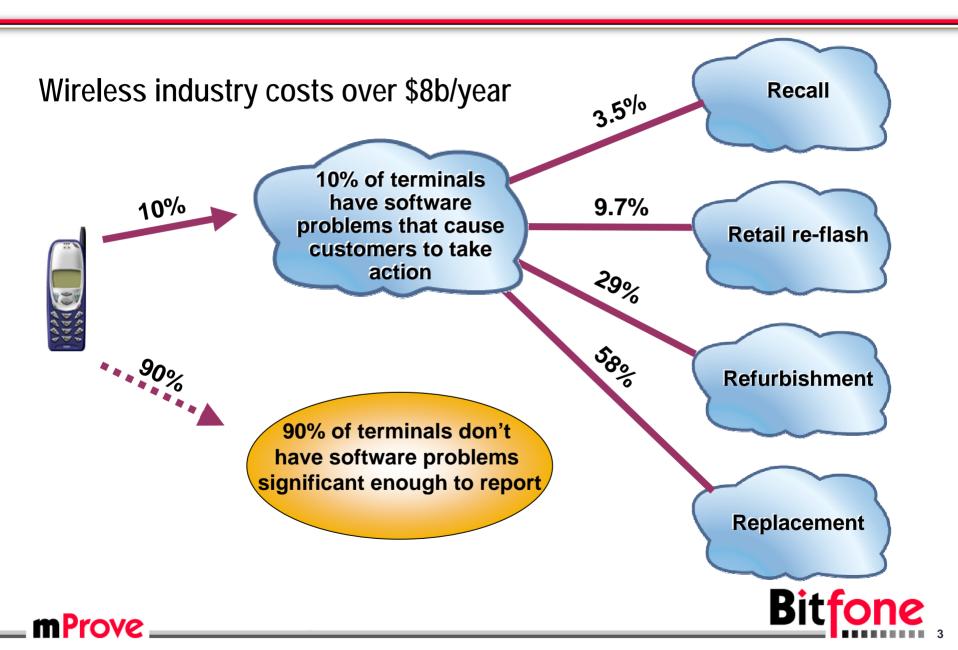


gwang@bitfone.com





#### How mobile phone problems are resolved



# **m** Prove<sup>™</sup> for OTA Firmware Updates

#### Improves Wireless Devices In Customers' Hands

- Repair software problems "down to the metal"
- Deliver new features and services
- The first over-the-air firmware update solution for mobile phones - available





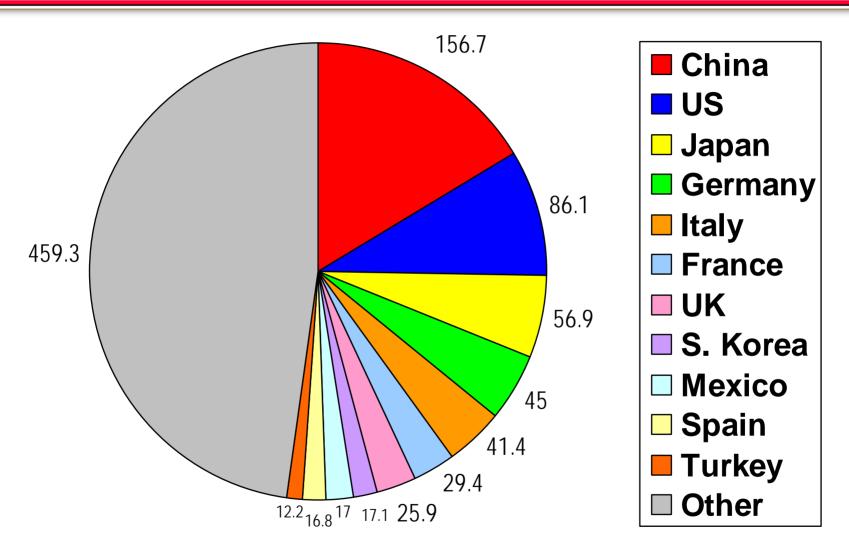
#### **Asia Wireless Market**



- Most sophisticated networks
- Most advanced handsets
- Most discerning customers



### **Top 20 Carriers – By Region**

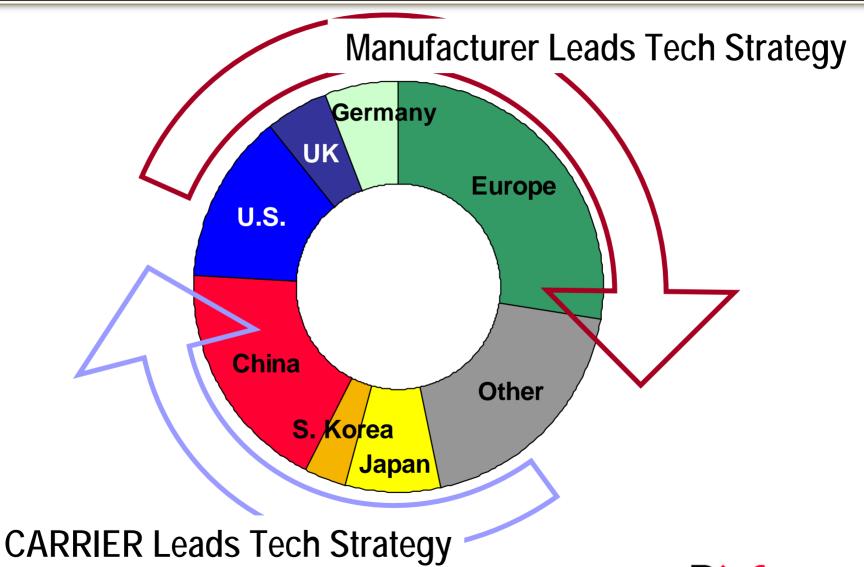


Source: Gartner Dataquest, 2002-2003





# **Asia Purchases Differently**





#### Glitches hit Sony Ericsson megapixel phones: DoCoMo

#### REUTERS [ THURSDAY, JUNE 05, 2003 02:35:05 PM ]

TOKYO: NTT DoCoMo said on Thursday that technical glitches had affected its first megapixel phones, manufactured by Sony Ericsson, marring the debut of a new photo-phone model with the world's high\_est resolution.

DoCoMo, Japan's largest mobile phone operator, sold about 40,000 units of the camera-phone on the day of its launch on Wednesday."

- Recall and reflash required for >100,00 phones
- Expense >\$10 million plus customer dissatisfaction





#### Mobile Phone Bugs to be Fixed via Wireless Networks, NTT DoCoMo Says

"NTT DoCoMo Inc. of Japan will embark on taking a radical measure toward solving the ever-increasing faults or bugs as a result of the advanced functions in mobile phone handsets.

In 2004, the company will adopt a system, in which patch data is sent via mobile phone networks, so that users can easily fix problems. In fact, NTT DoCoMo's new products released this year are already equipped with a system for fixing software bugs via a network.

Also, Au by KDDI Corp. of Japan is preparing a similar system."

Nikkei Electronics Asia – September 16, 2003 (TOKYO)





# **Asia is Major Bitfone Opportunity**

- Korea will shortly launch first commercial OTA firmware solution
- OTA Updates will soon launch and every carrier is now investigating
- China now actively investigating
- Most handset manufacturers are interested in solutions























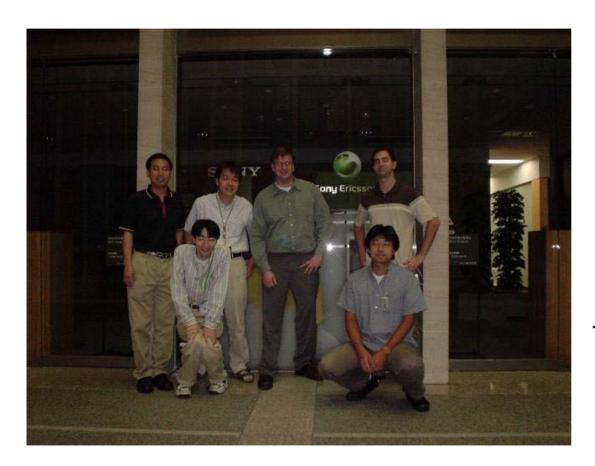
### Winning Business in Asia

- Local people
- Localized product
- Localized marketing
- Localized (flexible) pricing
- Localized mindset at headquarters





### **Great Support Required in Asia**



Bitfone had to develop, debug and deliver mProve 3.0

all at the same
 time – to meet Sony
 Ericsson's schedule





### **Great Rewards for Great Support**

"The new flexible, customizable, and high performance architecture of mProve 3.0 enabled us to easily integrate it without impacting our product development schedule," said Hajime Watanabe, General Manager of Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications Japan, Inc. "Bitfone has repeatedly demonstrated that they are responsive, flexible and committed to their customers' success, and this timely product release is a perfect example of that."







# Bitfone Press Coverage in Asia

#### Herald Eribune

#### 日経コミュニケーシ The Korea Herald war 71/5->=> (Java 771)

#### The Asahi Shimbun

#### Startup jazzes up mobile phone software

By PAUL MURPHY

Asahi Shimbun News Service

Armed with a stack of his say which of the nation's three band's CDs as gifts for potential major mobile phone carriers business partners, Gene Wang will be involved came to Japan last month to woo the wireless industry with "patches" or upgrades online

"We can go to a carrier tablished practice, mobile saying, You are spending hun-phone users generally have to dreds of millions of dollars each year dealing with defec- handsets back to the vendor. tive phones ... and we have the pain medication," said the around 10 percent of handsets chief executive officer of are returned for recall, refurbisax player leads Silicon Jazz in reinstallation of read-only

Wang's "Will You Miss Me," turnover, as well as customer utions.

commercial launch of the that upwards of \$6 billion could Japan, a country that already music



Bitfone estimates that

software—a major drag on in- Gene Wang of Bitfone Corp.

in the Silicon Jazz CDs, which The 50-employee company be saved through adopting the Wang feature dreamy tunes such as says losses due to customer company's over-the-air sol- under

but in the Californian startup's service, logistical and warranty Bittone, whose mProve is carrie flagship technology, which en- expenses, cost the wireless in- currently in trials with five of facture ables the wireless transmission dustry \$8 billion (960 billion the world's six top handset He that it projects could reach \$9 a two-person sales and cus-mus Japan will be host to the first billion this year. It maintains tomer support subsidiary in at mu

With an eye on longer-term expansion into China and growth elsewhere, Wang hopes to learn from Japan, which he describes as a mode of advanced service and the "first and fastest" in mobile

"Japan is quite a good proving ground for what is hot, which are now sweeping the

accounts for over one-third of

Bitfone to fix handset glitches U.S.-based Qualcomm Inc.

And all the updates are meant just a communication necessity to fix software glitches over-theair, a unique business model that cdma2000 1x network. Wang said carriers and manufacturers would find attractive in terms of cost reduction and better business model is based on techhandset troubleshooting.

Notably, Bitfone is eveing a niche market that has largely been ignored by major handset

The company filed more than 40 patent applications, Wang said, adding that a serious or potential rival is non-existent, at least for now

Bitfone plans to introduce its mProve software to mobile markets in Asia and the United States within the year, Wang said,

Thanks partly to the technolo-

too many benefits and too much

le phone

fees to a Chinese mobile carrier on the condition that its CDMA technology would be adopted and

could spark negative disputes, are now going smoothly, and the technology is being tested at five of the top six handset manufac-There are turers in the world.

(insight@koreaherald.co.kr)

SK Telecom, KTF and LG

voice and data services through

clear a major, local obstacle. Its

secure profits by collecting li-

officials are very quick to re-

spond to any technology licens-

partly because there have been

powers all the mobile handsets in

censing fees from its clients.

However, Bitfone has vet to

ト強化した点が特徴だ

種のうち、F505iとSO505iは100 Telecom — offering a variety of 長を超す CCD カメラを装備。特に、 - 製のSO505i はデジカメ機能を重 nology licensing, which means it will provide software only and とデザインになっており、メイン・ Korea's media and government スプレイが水平に回転。撮影しやす 犬に変化する (写真1)。 ing fee model in a negative way.

some friction between Korean つのJavaアプリ向けのデータ記憶領 handset manufacturers and Qualcomm, whose CDMA chip 最大100Kから200Kバイトに拡大。 Local media continue to criticize the licensing fee contract between handset makers here こ複数のJavaアプリの連携、Javaア and Qualcomm, saying that the unfair deal means they give up から任章のサーバーへのリンク、電 profit to the U.S. solutions deflared up when Qualcomm reportedly offered lower licensing や着信履歴などの情報とJavaアプリ 連携などを可能にした。

Although forging a licensing fee contract with Korean firms えるHTMLファイルの最大容量も, Wang said the company's talks から20Kバイトに拡大。Macromelashにも対応しており、多様なコン ノッの登場が期待できる。

#### 携帯は「もはやパソコン」 ソフトの更新は不可避に

「携帯電話は搭載するソフトウエアが 増え、不具合が起こりやすくなった。回 収するとなると費用は膨大しと語るのは 米ビットフォンの王友進社長兼CEO。同 社はこの問題を解消する携帯向けソフト ウエア更新技術mProve を開発する。「携 帯電話はもはやパソコンと同じ」として 日米欧の携帯電話事業者やメーカーに mProve を売り込む。



王友進 米ビットフォン

#### ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNAL.

Mobile handsets are more than

for Koreans these days. They

help people take and save some

snappy pictures, record live video

clips and surf the Web over the

The trouble is that handsets are

not perfect; hardware and soft-

ware tend to go awry at some

point, forcing carriers and manu-

facturers to endure extra expens-

"Our focus is to help handset makers roll out phones quickly

and carriers to avoid wasting

money on customer service," said

Gene Wang, chief executive of

Bitfone Corp., a U.S. startup, in

an interview with The Korea

Bitfone is now keen to sell its

advanced mobile network.

es for customer service.

Herald vesterday

#### **Overall OC Economic Uptick**

anness the wateress of authorities and provided or bug year) globally in 2002, a figure makers, is building what is now dreat Linksys Gets Cisco Validation from Chambers' Son

Don't ask Keitaro Matsuda, the senior economist for Union Bank of California. when technology in Orange County will come back-you don't want to hear it.

"That sector will lag," says Matsuda. "As far as Southern California is concerned, it may not happen until 2004 or 2005."

Moreover, says Matsuda, the tech economy here will remain stagnant despite expected growth in OC's overall economy

Now before you chastise Matsuda, who's based in the Bay area, for TECHNOLOGY playing into the age-old Andrew Simons North California-South



It's funny how we get ideas.

For John Chambers, chief executive of networking gear kingpin Cisco Systems Inc., the idea that Irvine-based Linksys Group Inc. might be a good acquisition came in a rather roundabout way.

Thank Chambers' son for the eventual \$500 million Cisco buy

"He was looking for a router to put in his apartment," Chambers told me during a reception at the annual Orange County Business Council dinner recently. "I told him he could get one from Cisco at a discount. He said 'No way, even at that price I could get

one cheaper from Linksys." That's when it clicked on Linksys. Chambers said, laughing.

venture wine



#### Other Issues in Asia

Problems like SARS make business tricky





## **Summary**

- There is a huge growth opportunity in Asia for mobile phone software
- It requires commitment, a cultural mindshift and local presence to build the business
- While the hazards are many, the rewards are spectacular!



