

In-flight mobile calls to take off

New communications systems will enable mobile phone users to make in-flight calls from 2007 with revenues of £1.5 billion expected by 2010. Up to now mobile phones had to be switched off as the power radiated when connecting to terrestrial networks exceeded safety levels

1 On-board GSM network: Ensures phones cannot log in to ground-based network. Phones require minimal transmission power to connect

2 Inmarsat satellite: Phone and data communications relayed via satellite

3 Terrestrial network: Calls to and from aircraft at international roaming rates. Airline receives commission

***In-flight:** Cabin crew can control system to select appropriate operating mode, e.g. text-only for night flights*

Sources: AeroMobile, OnAir © GRAPHIC NEWS

