

Symbian OS - Down, But Not Out

Contributed by IMS Research
Friday, 30 March 2007

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Contrary to many market predictions, Symbian OS will not be going anywhere any time soon.

Some market pundits have predicted the demise of Symbian OS as competitive platforms such as Microsoft's Windows Mobile or Linux begin to make their mark in the smartphone sector. IMS Research believes, however, that all evidence points to the contrary. Symbian has enjoyed a significant share of the smartphone market up to now, and IMS Research forecasts that it will continue to do so through at least 2011. Symbian is projected to account for approximately 42% share of the smartphone market at the end of 2011.

“Symbian will naturally begin to lose market share to other competitive platforms, but the OS will remain a viable contender in the market. The platform's strength in the European market, its backing by Nokia and the S60 group, as well as its support by major operators such as Vodafone will ensure the OS's strength for the foreseeable future,” commented Alison Bogle, senior analyst, IMS Research.

These findings come from a new IMS Research Market Insights study: The Impact of Cellular Linux, which examines the potential for Linux as a mobile OS in all handset tiers: smartphone, feature rich, and basic feature. The report also discusses the mobile Linux ecosystem as well as the advantages and disadvantages of Linux as a cellular OS.

IMS Research is a supplier of market research and consultancy services on a wide range of global electronics markets. The company is supported by headquarters in Wellingborough, UK and offices in Austin, Texas and Shanghai, China. IMS Research regularly publishes detailed research on the wireless market, including new reports on technology/feature penetration in mobile phones and Linux as a mobile handset operating system. www.imsresearch.com

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