



A Brief History of Cordless Phones

- 1980 -

The first cordless phone was introduced, operating on the 27MHz frequency. Utilizing a limited number of channels, 27MHz phones experienced significant interference, static and security problems, and range was less than 100 feet.

- 1986 -

The Federal Communications Commission granted the frequency range of 47-49MHz specifically for cordless phones, which helped reduce interference. Range and clarity were still lacking, however, and users were required to stand or sit still to talk on the phone.

- 1990 -

The Federal Communications Commission opened the 900MHz frequency to accommodate the increased number of cordless phone users. The higher frequency allowed for greater clarity, range and channel selection, although prices for the technology breakthrough soared to about \$400.

- 1994 -

The first *digital* cordless phones were introduced, still operating in the 900MHz frequency. Digital phones helped to reduce eavesdropping and increase security.

- 1995 -

Digital Spread Spectrum (DSS) technology was introduced for cordless phones, enabling voice data to “frequency hop,” or transmit in pieces over several frequencies between the receiver and the base. DSS made eavesdropping almost impossible.

The Uniden 910 cordless phone was the most popular model at this time, with an extended range, digital signal, plenty of power and a price tag of \$359.99.

- 1996 -

Caller ID features were first introduced on cordless phones, which, along with other innovative features, helped to increase demand for cordless phones even more than DSS technology. Prices began to drop dramatically.

- more -



page 2/cordless phone timeline

- 1998 -

The Federal Communications Commission made the 2.4GHz spectrum available for cordless phone users. This frequency provided increased range for cordless phones – up to 2,200 feet – and even greater security, as it is outside the range of radio scanners.

- 2000 -

DSS cordless phone prices dropped to below \$100 for the first time.

- 2001 -

The Federal Communications Commission made the 5.8GHz frequency band available for cordless phone users. 2.4GHz and 5.8GHz phones can operate on up to 100 channels, providing unsurpassed clarity.

- 2002 -

Eighty-one percent of U.S. households have cordless phones, with an average of 1.5 cordless phones per home, according to the Consumer Electronics Association.

- 2002 -

In October, Uniden introduced the first true 5.8GHz cordless phone which both transmits and receives signals on the 5.8GHz frequency, thereby enhancing clarity and enabling superior audio quality.

- 2003 -

Uniden becomes world's leading cordless phone manufacturer in overall units sold.

###

Media Contact:

Jill Fairbanks
Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide
303-634-2633
jill.fairbanks@ogilvypr.com