

Multi Country Sim Cards by Michael Redfern

I thought I should give you a report on my experience using a Multi Country or Global SIM card. Google will find you half a dozen suppliers but I went ahead with www.0044.co.uk For £35 I have a PAYG card which can be topped up on line or by phone but in dollars - \$50 min in each 12 months. from last top up the credit is now only valid for 6 months. However if you top up within the 6 months any outstanding credit is rolled forward with the new credit.

It only works in compatible handsets but these are listed on the site. So I bought a used Nokia from sales@yaketyyak.net for £40.

The tariffs keep changing and there is now an 11p/pm advantage in having a US handset. Suffering that I was then paying 39 – 45p/pm within/from/to the UK or Europe. Texts were 17p each. But all incoming calls and texts were free. Full details are on the site.

Clearly there are advantages elsewhere for the UK or specific countries but for sheer convenience using one SIM for 7/8 countries around the Baltic is great. This is simple and much less punishing than Vodafone Roaming at 75p/pm each way.

Unusually the 0044 system works through The Isle of Man so some UK callers found that their network classed that as a UK call.

Despite being PAYG I receive a monthly itemised statement of use.

These cards do not handle data, the market is constantly changing and prices are under EU pressure but it worked well for me in 2006. Russia and strangely France were more expensive but I believe there would also be advantages if traversing the Med.

By using an additional 8 digit code the Global SIM card now works in most handsets.

RECENT UPDATE 27/1/2008

You may be interested in the next chapter!

0044 has been through a number of changes but at least for Europe still appears to be the least expensive and most straightforward Global SIM card.

A card now costs £21 including a £5 initial credit.

Calls to a Landline incur a connection charge of 12p and then 24ppm. To a Mobile 31ppm.

Texts cost 24p

All incoming calls and texts are FREE.

Isle of Man number calls from the UK to the Global SIM are generally classed as National.

You must top up this PAYG card at least once every 15 months and to preserve existing credit you need to make a call or send a text every 9 Months.