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BUSINESS

THE AGENDA

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Speak to me!

➔ Thought your BlackBerry was at the cutting edge of mobile communications? GSM is so 2007—check out the latest ways to speak on the move.

Thuraya SG-250 ▶

A satellite phone that thinks it's a mobile phone, the Thuraya SG-250 is part of a new breed of sat phones that offer incredible coverage in a mobile-like package. www.satcom-solutions.com

Handset: 7/10

It's bulky and looks sort of like a retro mobile phone with its pull-out aerial, but in our eyes that works in its favour. Also has a camera and text messaging.

Access: 2/10

The instructions warn that trees and tall buildings can obscure the signal, but even standing on the roof of the office our reception was patchy to say the least.

Ease of use: 7/10

Dial numbers as on a mobile but add the country codes before the landline number.

Quality: 2/10

Pretty bad! Reception in the middle of London with a clear view of the sky was hit and miss. Switch to GSM and quality is fine, but that's hardly the point with a sat phone.

Costs: 5/10

Phone costs €880, satellite calls from 75c-€1 per minute.

VERDICT: 4/10

Everything works well until you try making a call via satellite. Consider this only if you're in the middle of a desert or considering a role as criminal mastermind in 24.

