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SK TELECOM CO LTD
Form 6-K
November 14, 2003

1934 Act Registration No. 1-14418

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2003

SK TELECOM CO., LTD.
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

99, Seorin-dong
Jongro-gu
Seoul, Korea
(Address of principal executive offices)

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.)

Form 20-F Form 40-F

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.)

Yes No

(If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-_____.)

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This report on Form 6-K shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in the prospectuses included in Registration Statements on Form F-3 (File Nos. 333-91034 and 333-99073) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and

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to be a part thereof from the date on which this report is filed, to the extent not superseded by documents or reports subsequently filed or furnished.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

In this report on Form 6-K, unless the context indicates or otherwise requires, references to "we", "us", "our" or the "Company" shall mean SK Telecom Co., Ltd. and its consolidated subsidiaries, and references to "SK Telecom" shall mean SK Telecom Co., Ltd., but shall not include its consolidated subsidiaries. Unless otherwise indicated, references to our number of subscribers shall include Shinsegi Telecomm, Inc.'s subscribers from April 1, 2000. All references to "Korea" contained in this report shall mean The Republic of Korea and all references to the "Government" shall mean the government of The Republic of Korea.

The financial information appearing in this report and in our accompanying consolidated financial statements is stated in Korean won. All references to "Won" or "W" in this report are to the currency of Korea. Any discrepancies in any table between totals and the sums of the amounts listed are due to rounding.

This report contains "forward-looking statements", as defined in Section 27A of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, that are based on our current expectations, assumptions, estimates and projections about our company and our industry. The forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties. Generally, these forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "anticipate", "believe", "estimate", "expect", "intend", "project", "should", and similar expressions. We caution you that reliance on any forward-looking statement involves risks and uncertainties, and that although we believe that the assumptions on which our forward-looking statements are based are reasonable, any of those assumptions could prove to be inaccurate, and, as a result, the forward-looking statements based on those assumptions could be incorrect. In light of these and other uncertainties, you should not conclude that we will necessarily achieve any plans and objectives or projected financial results referred to in any of the forward-looking statements. We do not undertake to release the results of any revisions of these forward-looking statements to reflect future events or circumstances.

NON-CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF AND FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 AND 2003

We must file quarterly reports with the Financial Supervisory Commission of Korea and the Korea Stock Exchange. The unaudited, non-reviewed and non-consolidated income statement data as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2002 and 2003 and balance sheet data as of December 31, 2002 and September 30, 2003 shown below were prepared pursuant to generally accepted accounting principles in Korea ("Korean GAAP") and were derived from the financial statements included in the quarterly reports filed with the Financial Supervisory Commission of Korea and the Korea Stock Exchange.

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The financial information below is non-consolidated and includes the results of operations of our subsidiaries using the equity method of accounting. Therefore, our operating revenue, total assets and total liabilities, if prepared on a consolidated basis, could be significantly different from those in our non-consolidated financial statements, even though net income in our consolidated financial statements may be similar to that in our non-consolidated financial statements. Under Korean GAAP, for the years ended December 31, 2000, 2001 and 2002, SK Telecom's non-consolidated revenues accounted for 77.6%, 74.4% and 92.6%, respectively, of our consolidated revenues. We can give no assurance as to what the actual ratios will be for 2003. In addition, results of operations for the first nine months of 2003 may not be indicative of results of operations for the full year 2003.

We merged Shinsegi into SK Telecom with effect from January 13, 2002. As a result, our results of operations from that date include the results of operations of the business that was previously operated by Shinsegi and accounted for using the equity method of accounting in our non-consolidated financial information. Consequently, it may be difficult to compare our non-consolidated income statement data as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2002 to that as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2003.

	FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2002	2003
	(IN BILLIONS OF WON)	
NON-CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT DATA		
Operating Revenue.....	W 6,268.4	W
Operating Expenses.....	4,177.7	
Operating Income.....	2,090.7	
Other Income.....	204.0	
Other Expenses.....	352.5	
Income Taxes.....	593.6	
	-----	-----
Net Income.....	W 1,348.6	W

	AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2002	AS OF SEP 30, 2003
	(IN BILLIONS OF WON)	
NON-CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET DATA		
Total Current Assets.....	W 2,747.0	W

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Total Non-Current Assets.....	9,974.2	
Total Assets.....	12,721.2	1
Total Current Liabilities.....	4,015.9	
Total Long-Term Liabilities.....	3,168.4	
	-----	-----
Total Shareholders' Equity.....	W 5,536.9	W
	=====	=====

Non-Consolidated Operating Revenue. SK Telecom's operating revenue increased by 12.3% to Won 7,039.8 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from Won 6,268.4 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002, principally reflecting a 14.9% increase in cellular revenue to Won 6,244.1 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from Won 5,432.4 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002, which was offset in part by a 4.3% decrease in interconnection revenue.

The increase in SK Telecom's cellular revenue was principally due to an increase in the number of SK Telecom's wireless subscribers, as well as an increase in the average monthly revenue per subscriber. The number of SK Telecom's subscribers increased to approximately 18.0 million as of September 30, 2003 reflecting a market share of approximately 54.3% from approximately 17.0 million as of September 30, 2002.

Wireless Internet sales increased by 88.1% to Won 908.9 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from Won 483.3 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002, representing 14.6% of SK Telecom's cellular revenue, primarily due to the increased number of wireless internet-enabled handset holders.

SK Telecom's non-consolidated average monthly revenue per subscriber (including interconnection revenue) increased by 0.7% to Won 43,193 for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from Won 42,876 for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase is principally due to increases in average monthly revenue per subscriber from wireless Internet sales and average monthly revenue per subscriber from value-added services and other sales, which was partially offset by the reduction in tariffs by 7.3 % (based on a reduction in the standard tariff plan) from January 2003 and the decrease in interconnection rates.

On an aggregate basis, interconnection revenue decreased by 4.3% to Won 774.7 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from Won 809.8 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The decrease was primarily due to lower

interconnection rates during the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2002.

Non-Consolidated Operating Income. SK Telecom's operating income increased by 14.2% to Won 2,387.9 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from Won 2,090.7 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002.

Non-Consolidated Operating Expenses. SK Telecom's operating expenses increased by 11.4% to Won 4,651.9 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from Won 4,177.7 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002 primarily due to increases in commissions paid, fees and commissions, network interconnection expenses, depreciation and amortization expenses, leased line expenses, labor costs and miscellaneous operating expenses.

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Commissions increased by 19.5% to Won 1,661.1 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to Won 1,390.6 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase was primarily due to the increase in average subscribers by 9.0% during the period, increase in commissions paid to retail agents and wireless Internet content providers as wireless internet sales increase, increase in the number of handsets sold and our aggressive marketing activities to maintain our market leadership in 2G and 2.5G services as well as 3G services going forward.

Network interconnection expenses increased by 12.1% to Won 606.7 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to Won 541.2 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase was primarily due to higher subscriber numbers and an increase in the amount of mandated payment in Universal Service Obligation fund, which were only partially offset by a decrease in interconnection fees and the level of interconnection fees that SK Telecom must pay to other operators for calls using their networks. Additionally, SK Telecom reflected as an expense in the second quarter of 2003 all of the amounts due to be paid to KT Corporation for the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 pursuant to a cost sharing arrangement regarding the provision of directory assistance services by KT Corporation to our subscribers. SK Telecom will discuss with KT Corporation the amounts to be paid for directory assistance services provided to SK Telecom's subscribers during 2002 and the six months ended June 30, 2003.

Depreciation & amortization expenses increased by 3.8% to Won 1,026.7 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to 989.2 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase in depreciation expenses was primarily due to the expansion of SK Telecom's CDMA 1xRTT network.

Labor cost increased by 17.6% to Won 287.9 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to Won 244.8 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. The increase was primarily due to payment of performance bonuses to employees in 2003.

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Leased line expenses increased by 14.6% to Won 225.3 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to Won 196.6 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002, primarily due to an increase in wireless traffic.

Miscellaneous operating expenses increased by 2.2% to Won 231.0 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to Won 225.9 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002, primarily due to increases in communications related expenses which increased by 23.8% to Won 36.5 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from Won 29.5 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. This increase was offset in part by a 19.4% decrease in taxes and public dues.

Advertising expenses decreased by 10.3% to Won 255.6 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to Won 284.9 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002 primarily due to the increased marketing expenses during the FIFA World Cup soccer tournament and the Asian Games, both of which were held in Korea during the nine months ended September 30, 2002.

Non-Consolidated Other Income. Other income, consisting primarily of dividend income, commission income and interest income, decreased by 3.4% to Won 197.2 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to Won 204.0 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. Other income decreased

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primarily due to declines in the gain on equity method, foreign exchange and translation gains and collection of previously written off accounts receivable, which were partially offset by increases in interest income, dividend income and miscellaneous income.

Non-Consolidated Other Expenses. Other expenses, consisting primarily of interest expense, donations, foreign exchange and translation losses, loss on disposal and impairment of property and equipment and miscellaneous expenses, increased by 22.3 % to Won 430.9 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 compared to Won 352.5 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002. Other expenses increased primarily as a result of increases in interest expense, loss on equity method and loss on the impairment of long-term investment securities, which were only partially offset by a decrease in loss on disposal of property and equipment. As a percentage of operating revenue, other expenses increased to 6.1% for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from 5.6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2002.

Non-Consolidated Income Tax. Provision for income taxes increased by 8.6% to Won 644.6 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from Won 593.6 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002.

Non-Consolidated Net Income. Principally as a result of the factors discussed above, SK Telecom's net income increased by 11.9% to 1,509.5 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 from Won 1,348.6 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2002.

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INCOME STATEMENT

	(KRW MM)	
	JAN~SEP 03	JAN~SEP 02
	-----	-----
CELLULAR REVENUE	6,244,121	5,432,435
INTERCONNECTION REVENUE	774,686	809,822
OTHERS	21,040	26,154
	-----	-----
REVENUE	7,039,847	6,268,411
	-----	-----
OPERATING EXPENSES	4,651,945	4,177,720
	-----	-----
WAGE AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	287,948	244,801
COMMISSIONS	1,661,094	1,390,616
ADVERTISING	255,629	284,909
DEPRECIATION	1,026,651	989,241
NETWORK INTERCONNECTION	606,740	541,231
LEASED LINE	225,261	196,611
R&D EXPENSES	147,973	111,998
RENT	101,023	103,782
FREQUENCY USAGE FEES	97,379	88,583
BAD DEBT	11,250	--

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OTHERS	230,996	225,948
	-----	-----
OPERATING INCOME	2,387,902	2,090,691
	-----	-----
OTHER INCOME	197,164	204,037
	-----	-----
INTEREST INCOME	46,714	32,587
INCOMING FEES	91,564	78,407
GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	1,449	2,646
GAIN ON EQUITY METHOD	--	36,399
FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND TRANSLATION GAINS	11,576	28,582
OTHERS	45,861	25,416
	-----	-----
OTHER EXPENSES	430,935	352,498
	-----	-----
INTEREST EXPENSES	284,241	227,334
DONATIONS	12,421	9,491
LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	10,816	40,981
LOSS ON EQUITY METHOD	18,063	--
FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND TRANSLATION LOSS	2,661	4,223
LOSS ON IMPAIRMENT OF INVESTMENT SECURITIES	18,717	400
LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF INVESTMENT ASSETS	179	2,252
OTHERS	83,838	67,817
	-----	-----
ORDINARY INCOME	2,154,131	1,942,229
	-----	-----
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	2,154,131	1,942,229
	-----	-----
INCOME TAXES	644,611	593,592
	-----	-----
NET INCOME	1,509,520	1,348,638
	=====	=====

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BALANCE SHEET

	03-SEP	(KRW MM) 02-DEC
	-----	-----
TOTAL ASSETS	13,462,839	12,721,218
	-----	-----
CURRENT ASSETS	3,698,425	2,746,991
	-----	-----
CASH AND MARKETABLE SECURITIES	1,175,663	476,115
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE - TRADE	1,390,129	1,290,475
SHORT-TERM LOANS	27,813	29,623
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE - OTHER	913,105	809,616
INVENTORIES	6,062	10,718
OTHERS	185,654	130,444
	-----	-----
INVESTMENT ASSETS	1,909,838	3,132,330
	-----	-----
LONG-TERM INVESTMENT SECURITIES	1,524,573	2,806,963

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LONG-TERM LOANS	44,554	57,984
GUARANTEE DEPOSITS	239,707	221,815
OTHERS	101,003	45,568
	-----	-----
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	4,288,124	4,451,548
	-----	-----
LAND	441,744	439,915
BUILDING AND FIXTURE	790,199	778,833
EQUIPMENT	2,295,792	2,432,552
CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS	318,408	345,063
OTHERS	441,981	455,186
	-----	-----
INTANGIBLE ASSETS	3,566,451	2,390,350
	-----	-----
LIABILITIES	7,933,160	7,184,271
	-----	-----
CURRENT LIABILITIES	4,577,949	4,015,859
	-----	-----
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	713,179	1,587,532
SHORT-TERM BORROWINGS	1,458,669	620,000
INCOME TAXES PAYABLE	386,013	362,365
ACCRUED EXPENSES	473,269	354,716
CURRENT PORTION OF LONG-TERM DEBT	1,287,749	920,745
OTHERS	259,070	170,502
	-----	-----
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	3,355,210	3,168,412
	-----	-----
LONG-TERM DEBT	2,505,427	2,913,801
FACILITY DEPOSITS	45,605	46,850
ACCRUED SEVERANCE INDEMNITIES	73,975	45,861
OTHERS	730,203	161,899
	-----	-----
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	5,529,679	5,536,948
	-----	-----
CAPITAL STOCK	44,639	44,576
CAPITAL SURPLUS	2,916,150	2,884,385
RETAINED EARNINGS	4,706,334	4,897,099
CAPITAL ADJUSTMENTS	(2,137,445)	(2,289,112)
TREASURY STOCK	(2,047,103)	(2,192,449)
UNREALIZED LOSS ON VALUATION OF	(93,792)	(99,115)
LONG-TERM INVESTMENT SECURITIES		
STOCK OPTIONS	3,450	2,452
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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

SK TELECOM CO., LTD.

By: /s/ Chi Woo Han

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Name: Chi Woo Han
Title: Vice President
Finance Management Office

Date: November 14, 2003