Global Mobile LTE EPC Virtualization Forecast, 2013 - 2017: *Impacts and Benefits*

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A Market Study

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Abstract

Mobile virtualization is a hot topic in the wireless industry today. However, there is considerable lack of knowledge as to what constitutes mobile virtualization and how and when it will be implemented by mobile operators.

This report discusses the potential impact of mobile EPC (evolved packet core) virtualization, the potential benefits both in terms of CapEx and OpEx to operators deploying LTE, and the global implications.

Mobile EPC virtualization requires that the EPC functions and processes be recreated using off-the-shelf hardware and then deployed in a data center. A virtualized EPC could be used to provide additional core capacity to a legacy EPC for a mobile operator or could be used by a third party to provide services to a specific group of customers. (Note that simply hosting an EPC and offering it back as a managed service to a mobile operator is not virtualization.)

Key questions addressed in this report:

- What is mobile EPC virtualization?
- What types of mobile EPC virtualization exist and how do they differ?
- What are the current standards efforts and industry groups associated with mobile EPC virtualization?
- What is the relationship between virtualization of the EPC, SDN and NFV?
- How is a virtualized EPC implemented?
- What are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and risks associated with mobile EPC virtualization?
- What new business models are enabled by mobile EPC virtualization?
- How much are the mobile operators expected to spend globally on LTE EPCs in terms of CapEx and OpEx?
- What are the potential savings associated with mobile LTE EPC virtualization for the world's mobile operators (by region) in terms of CapEx and OpEx?
- What is the potential impact of mobile EPC virtualization on the mobile infrastructure OEMs such as Alcatel-Lucent, Ericsson, Cisco, Nokia Solutions & Networks, Samsung, ZTE and Huawei?

- What are the opportunities for new virtualized EPC vendors such as Connectem?

Who should read this report?

- Mobile network operators and MVNOs
- Mobile infrastructure OEMs
- Mobile EPC vendors and OEMs
- Virtualization software and solution vendors
- Financial analysts and investors.