

Global LTE Network Infrastructure Spending Forecast, 2013-2018

Market Study
Fourth Quarter, 2014





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Abstract

Global LTE deployments are steadily progressing. The North American market currently leads other markets in regard to number of LTE subscribers, but this will change over the next five years, as other regions continue to deploy LTE. LTE is now available in all regions of the world.

Once the LTE networks are deployed and the subscriber base starts to grow in each country, more devices will become available and usage of the network will increase. When this happens, operators will have to start increasing their networks' capacity. Operators around the world are continually balancing their network build spending between coverage and capacity. The engineers strive to provide sufficient coverage to be competitive and sufficient capacity to meet the needs of the growing subscriber base, while minimizing unnecessary build spending.

Over the next few years, as the number of subscribers using LTE increases, so the corresponding network operating costs increase. While *iGR* expects the overall LTE network operating cost per subscriber to increase, the operating expense per cell site will decline due to increased efficiencies in the network.

This report provides an overview of LTE deployments in all global regions. It also forecasts total global LTE infrastructure build spending and total global LTE operating costs for the years 2013 through 2018. The build spending is also forecasted by network component. In addition to the global level, the report forecasts the spending for each of the following six regions: North America, Latin America, Europe, Middle East and Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Japan.

Key questions addressed:

- What is the status of LTE deployments in each global region?
- What is the forecast for the number of LTE connections and how much mobile data will the LTE networks carry both globally and for each region of the world?
- Which global regions are spending the most to build LTE networks?
- When does infrastructure build spending begin to decrease in each global region?
- What share of LTE infrastructure build spending will be spent on each type of network component, including Radio, Fronthaul/Backhaul, MME/S-GW, and Packet Core, in the next five years?
- How much will LTE operating costs be in the next five years?

- How big is the overall LTE infrastructure opportunity – both build spending and operating costs – in the next five years?

Who should read this report?

- Mobile network operators
- LTE network infrastructure vendors
- Financial and investment analysts.