Global Mobile Connections Forecast, 2017 – 2022: *Increasing 4G and 5G*

Market Study

First Quarter 2018

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Table of Contents

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Abstract

Mobile subscribers worldwide increasingly depend on a variety of mobile devices to stay connected. In addition to a mobile phone or smartphone, a subscriber can connect through a tablet or, increasingly, through an embedded modem in a connected car or a connected device in the Internet of Things (IoT). Because of this trend, as well as some regions' common use of multiple SIMs by one mobile subscriber, most global regions currently have mobile penetration rates of more than 100 per cent.

The overall global mobile connections penetration rate is expected to rise from 108 percent in 2017 to 130 percent in 2022. However, the number of mobile connections in each region of the world is expected to grow at different rates, due to each region's economic environment, its adoption rate of new technologies such as IoT, and its current mobile penetration.

Aside from the increase in the number of connections, the other major change over the forecast period is the shift from 2G to 3G and 4G and then to 5G. In 2017 2G, 3G and 4G connections each comprised approximately one third of mobile connections, but 4G connections will become more predominant by the end of the forecast, and a small percentage of connections will be 5G connections.

Key questions addressed:

- How many wireless connections are there globally and in each major geographic region?
- What is the split of those connections by technology type – both air interface (GSM, CDMA, UMTS/HSPA, LTE, 5G-NR) and generation (2G 3G, 4G, 5G)?
- What are the major markets for LTE and 5G throughout the forecast period?
- How many 5G connections does *iG*R forecast for 2018, the expected first year of launches of the 5G-NR standard? How quickly will the number of 5G connections grow?

Who should read this report?

- Mobile operators
- Device OEMs
- Mobile infrastructure and equipment OEMs
- Content providers and distributors
- Financial analysts and investors.

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