U.S. Mobile Operator Edge Computing Spending Forecast, 2018-2023

Market Study
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*iG*R
12400 W. Hwy 71
Suite 350 PMB 341
Austin TX 78738

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Abstract

Mobile operators started the deployment of 5G in 2018 with a few launching commercial services before the end of the year. More launches are expected in 2019 and 2020, as well as the move to the 5G New Core. Part of the 5G implementation process includes moving to software defined networking (SDN), network function virtualization (NFV). Edge computing (EC) and Central Office Re-architected as a Data Center (CORD) are two sub-sets of the overall shift away from the traditional network architecture to one that looks more like a data center.

Moreover, both CORD and EC are aspects of the same concept – network equipment and software moving from proprietary platforms to (open source) software running on COTS hardware.

This market study models and forecasts what U.S. mobile operators will spend putting in EC into their networks. Implementation of the 5G new core is discussed because it is a related technology platform; EC and 5G new core will likely be deployed alongside each other in the mobile networks. *iG*R has therefore included its forecast for U.S. mobile operator spending on building the 5G new core.

Key questions addressed in this market study include:

- What is EC? What are some of the other edge computing concepts?
- How does EC work?
- How does EC relate to other edge computing initiatives, such as OpenFog, CORD Project, Open Edge Computing (OEC), Open Compute, and EdgeX Foundry?
- What can be done with EC?
- How is edge computing implemented with public cloud?
- What are some of the perceived benefits and issues related to EC?
- What are the key drivers for implementing EC?
- What is CORD and M-CORD?
- How do CORD and M-CORD work?
- What can be done with CORD and M-CORD?

- What are some of the perceived benefits and issues related to CORD and M-CORD?
- How much mobile operator spending is likely to occur on EC-based solutions?

Who should read this report?

- Mobile operators
- Infrastructure OEMs
- Computing infrastructure OEMs
- Public cloud vendors and OEMs
- Data center OEMs and operators
- Small cell product and solution vendors
- Backhaul service providers and equipment OEMs
- Financial analysts and investors.