iGR

Latin America Mobile Network Infrastructure Spending Forecast, 2021 – 2026: *The long road to 5G*

A Market Study

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Abstract

The first 5G networks have now been launched (in limited areas) in a few select Latin American countries, such as Brazil, Chile and Mexico, but these networks will take many years to fully deploy, and other countries will lag in both providing 5G spectrum and eventually deploying 5G. As a result, LTE will continue to carry the majority of Latin American mobile data traffic for the next few years, even as some mobile operators' build spending is targeted at 5G.

This market study presents a forecast for the cost of building, deploying and operating LTE and 5G networks in Latin America from 2021 through 2026. Included is a mobile network infrastructure build forecast, which is detailed by mobile network component (RAN, front/backhaul, and core) and generation (LTE and 5G). The RAN build component is further detailed by Open RAN and traditional RAN. The study also includes a forecast of network operating costs.

In addition to the forecasts, the market study provides detailed information on 5G networks, cloud RAN, Open RAN and edge computing, as well as a status update on auctioned 5G spectrum and 5G network deployments in Latin America.

Key questions addressed in this market study include:

- How will the amount of data traffic carried on LTE and 5G networks grow in Latin America in the next five years?
- How big is the LTE and 5G infrastructure opportunity in Latin America in the next five years?
- What is the impact of inflation and supply chain issues on the Latin American mobile infrastructure investment?
- What is the share of infrastructure spending for the network components of RAN, fronthaul/backhaul, and core?
- How is deployment of the core into the cloud impacting spending?
- What portion of RAN spending will be for Open RAN?
- What is the share of infrastructure spending for LTE and 5G in the next five years?
- What are the expected mobile network operating costs in the next five years?
- What is the status of 5G spectrum auctions in Latin America and the major Latin American mobile operators' 5G networks?
- What are some of the technologies being used to support the deployment of 5G, such as dynamic spectrum sharing, MIMO and beamforming?

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- What are the new architectures that are being used to evolve the mobile network and support 5G, such as cloud RAN, Open RAN, virtualization and mobile edge computing?

Who should read this report?

- Mobile operators
- Infrastructure OEMs
- Small cell product and solution vendors
- Edge computing solution providers
- Backhaul service providers and equipment OEMs
- Financial analysts and investors.

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