

Global Mobile Connections Forecast, 2012 - 2017

Market Study
First Quarter 2013





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A Market Study

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Abstract

Connections can be for many types of mobile devices such as mobile phones, smartphones, tablets, mobile hotspots, portable modems, and embedded modems. Looking at the world's mobile connection data holistically allows one to see the overarching patterns that will play out over the next five years and which markets will see the most growth.

The worldwide population is expected to continue its steady growth over the next five years and has already surpassed 7 billion people in 2012. Worldwide wireless connections are growing briskly and will surpass 6 billion connections in 2013 to reach 7.5 billion in 2017. The global wireless penetration rate will rise at an annually compounded rate of 4.8 percent over the next five years from 83.5 percent in 2012 to 100.4 percent in 2017.

These top-level forecast alone show how people the world over are increasingly preferring mobile devices as their main voice and data communications tool. In some regions, a mobile phone / smartphone may be the user's only connection to the Internet.

Aside from the raw increase in the number of connections, the other major change over the forecast period is the shift from 2G to 3G – and, toward the end of the forecast, to 4G. For example, in 2012, 2G connections comprised 71 percent of all mobile connections. As these 2G connections decline over the next 5 years, 3G connections will become predominant, rising to makeup 63 percent of all connections in 2017. Fourth generation technologies – primarily LTE – are still in their early stages, but will see drastic growth and reach 1.4 billion connections in 2017.

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 and generation?
- What are some of the key connection-related trends by technology and region? For example:
 - GSM
 - CDMA
 - UMTS/HSPA

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- WiMax.
- What are the major markets for LTE both today and throughout the forecast period?
- When does *iGR* expect LTE to become a significant portion of the various regions over the forecast period?

Who should read this report?

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

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