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New iGR study forecasts global mobile connections to reach 9.4 billion in 2020

Growth in mobile connections due in part to subscribers' adoption of multiple devices, including tablets, connected cars, and IoT devices

AUSTIN, Texas, January 28th, 2016 – Mobile subscribers worldwide increasingly depend on a variety of mobile devices to stay connected. One mobile subscriber can use many mobile connections, as is evidenced by many countries' current mobile penetration rates of more than 100 per cent. In addition to a mobile phone or smartphone, a subscriber can connect through a tablet, or, increasingly, an embedded modem in a connected car or through a connected device in the Internet of Things (IoT).

iGR, a market research consultancy focused on the wireless and mobile industry, has recently released its forecast for the number of mobile connections in the world over the next five years. The number of mobile connections in each region of the world is expected to grow at different rates, due to differences in the world's regions' underlying economies, the regions' willingness and eagerness to adopt new technologies, and the current strength or weakness of their economies.

As the world's population is expected to grow over the next five years, worldwide mobile connections, which are currently at an approximately 100 percent penetration rate, are also expected to grow from 7.3 billion connections in 2015 to reach almost 9.4 billion in 2020. Due to the proliferation of all types of mobile devices, the global wireless penetration rate will rise from 100 percent in 2015 to 122 percent in 2020.

"iGR expects that the number of mobile connections will continue to grow, although the rate of growth will vary significantly between each world region," said Iain Gillott, president and founder of iGR. "In some regions, new subscribers are still being added, while in other regions, a saturated smartphone market is being augmented with tablets, connected cars, and a growing number of Internet of Things (IoT) devices."

iGR's new market study, [Global Mobile Connections Forecast, 2015-2020: A growing number of connected IoT devices](#), forecasts the number of mobile connections for the next five years at both the global level and for each of the following regions: North America, Latin America, Europe,

Middle East and Africa, Asia-Pacific and Japan. The study also forecasts the number of connections according to their generation (2G, 3G, or 4G) and their technology, such as GSM, UMTS/HSPA and LTE.

The following key questions are addressed in the new research study:

- 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, including GSM, CDMA, UMTS/HSPA, and LTE for the world and for each region?
- 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?

The information in this report will be valuable for:

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

The new report can be [purchased](#) and downloaded directly from *iGR*'s website at www.igr-inc.com. Alternatively, contact Iain Gillott at (512) 263-5682 or at iain@igr-inc.com for additional details.

About iGR

iGR is a market strategy consultancy focused on the wireless and mobile communications industry. Founded by Iain Gillott, one of the wireless industry's leading analysts, in late 2000 as *iGillottResearch*, *iGR* is now in its sixteenth year of operation. *iGR* continuously researches emerging and existent technologies, technology industries, and consumer markets. We use our detailed research to offer a range of services to help companies improve their position in the marketplace, clearly define their future direction, and ultimately improve their bottom line.

iGR researches a range of wireless and mobile products and technologies, including: smartphones; tablets; mobile wearable devices; connected cars; mobile applications; bandwidth demand and use; small cell and het-net architectures; mobile EPC and RAN virtualization; DAS; LTE; VoLTE; IMS; NFC; GSM/GPRS/UMTS/HSPA; CDMA 1x/EV-DO; iDEN; SIP; macro-, pico- and femtocells; mobile backhaul; WiFi and WiFi offload; and SIM and UICC.

A more complete profile of the company can be found at www.igr-inc.com.