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New iGR study forecasts over half a trillion dollars in U.S. mobile network spending over ten years as operators start move from LTE to 5G

Study forecasts both infrastructure build spending and operational costs

AUSTIN, Texas, September 25th, 2017 – LTE networks are now firmly established in the U.S. with the majority of mobile subscribers using LTE devices. To meet the increasing demand for mobile bandwidth, especially to support video, the larger mobile operators are in the process of upgrading their LTE networks with features from the latest 3GPP releases and densifying the cellular architecture. To support additional LTE capacity, mobile operators are also increasingly refarming 3G spectrum, as well as acquiring additional spectrum resources through auctions and private transactions. The next major iteration of mobile networks will be 5G.

The demand for mobile data bandwidth will continue to rise and mobile operators will strive to provide sufficient capacity to meet the growing needs of the subscriber base, while minimizing unnecessary network spending. As well as spending on new network builds, this includes minimizing network operating costs wherever possible.

iGR, a market research consultancy focused on the wireless and mobile industry, has recently published a new market study that forecasts how much mobile operators will spend over the next 10 years to build and operate their mobile networks. iGR's forecast shows over half a trillion dollars in total network spending (build and operations) through 2027.

“The U.S. mobile operators will continue to invest in their LTE networks to keep up with increasing mobile demand and to prepare for 5G,” said Iain Gillott, president and founder of iGR. “And 5G will be rapidly upon us: the first versions of 5G will be deployed in 2018 using Non-standalone New Radio.”

iGR's new market study, [U.S Mobile Network Infrastructure Spending Forecast, 2017-2027: Moving Rapidly from LTE to 5G](#), provides a ten-year forecast for the cost of building and operating LTE and 5G networks in the U.S. beginning in 2017 and continuing through 2027. The build forecast is further detailed by mobile network component (RAN, front/backhaul, and core) and generation (LTE and 5G). In addition to the forecasts, the market study provides detailed

information on evolving mobile network architectures, 5G networks, and how the U.S. mobile industry is progressing towards 5G.

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

- What are the various 3GPP standards leading up to 5G and what are they likely to contain?
- What is 5G? How is it defined and/or viewed right now? When will 5G be deployed?
- What are some of the goals and use cases for 5G?
- How will U.S. mobile operators get from their 4G LTE networks of today to tomorrow's 5G networks?
- What is Non-standalone New Radio (NSA-NR)?
- How will the amount of data traffic carried on LTE and 5G networks grow in the U.S. in the next ten years?
- How big is the LTE and 5G infrastructure opportunity in the U.S. in the next ten years?
- What is the share of infrastructure spending for the network components of RAN, fronthaul/backhaul, and core in the next ten years?
- What is the share of infrastructure spending for LTE and 5G in the next ten years?
- What are the expected mobile network operating costs in the next ten years?
- Who are some of the major vendors that will support LTE and 5G networks over the next ten years?

The information in this market study will be valuable for:

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

The new report can be [purchased](#) and downloaded directly from *iGR's* website at www.iGR-inc.com.

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 seventeenth 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.