Global Front/Backhaul Build Spending Forecast, 2018-2028: *Connecting 5G around the globe*

Market Study
Third Quarter, 2019

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Published Third Quarter, 2019
Version 1.0
Report Number: 03Q2019-02

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Abstract

5G is going to require a massive number of cell sites to achieve the low latency and high speeds envisioned. New sites will include everything from macro sites to small radios hung off of buildings or lamp posts in dense urban environments. And with these sites, additional fronthaul and backhaul will be required.

*iG*R has created a network cost model based on the amount of data the network is expected to be able to support and deliver. The cost model includes three major components: RAN (base station equipment and small cells), core (LTE EPC and 5G new core), and front/backhaul. The front/backhaul spending component is presented in this market study.

This market study presents a summary of fronthaul and backhaul options for 5G and includes a ten-year forecast of front/backhaul build spending in the U.S., Europe and Asia Pacific between 2018 and 2028. The study also includes a discussion of global operators' progress towards 5G and profiles of dozens of front/backhaul vendors.

Key questions addressed in this market study include:

- What are the various 3GPP standards leading up to 5G?
- 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?
- What are global mobile operators doing to prepare for the transition from their 4G LTE networks of today to tomorrow's 5G networks?
- What is the 'functional split' as it relates to fronthaul for 5G?
- How big is the fronthaul/backhaul infrastructure build opportunity in the U.S., Europe and Asia Pacific in the next ten years?
- Who are some of the major vendors that will provide fronthaul and backhaul solutions over the next ten years?

Who should read this report?

- Mobile operators
- Infrastructure OEMs
- Small cell product and solution vendors
- Financial analysts and investors.

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