3Q21 WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE – DECEMBER 2021

Quarterly Update – 2G/3G/4G/5G Radio Access & Core Networks

Table of Contents

ABSTRACT 3

KEY TAKEAWAYS 4

ALMOST FLAT SEQUENTIALLY, 3Q21 SHOWS THE GLOBAL MARKET HAS REACHED ITS EQUILIBRIUM 5

WE FOUND THAT SUPPLY-CHAIN ISSUES ARE AN INHERENT PART OF THIS EQUILIBRIUM 5
ALL REGIONAL MARKETS EXCEPT INDIA, OCEANIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA POSTED GROWTH 6
OVERALL, 5G RAN AND OPEN VRAN ARE THE ONLY 2 SEGMENTS THAT GREW IN 3Q21 7
5G REMAINS THE BRIGHT SPOT AND AS OF OCTOBER 2021, THE NUMBER OF 5G COMMERCIAL NETWORKS HIT 180 7
As mentioned in the previous 5G core section, a faster migration to SA is greatly desired *7*
The potential for LTE-A and VoLTE upgrades looks phenomenal *8*
The need for IMS has never been greater *8*
The need for new EPC is vanishing but capacity expansion looks strong *8*
STRONG CHINA 5G ROLLOUTS KEPT HUAWEI AND ZTE ON THE LEADERSHIP BOARD, ERICSSON WAS STABLE BUT NOKIA LOST GROUND 9
It remains musical chairs between the Chinese and the European duo *9*
Although Ericsson and Nokia took their former footprints back from Huawei, that was not enough to move the needle *10*
IN CORE NETWORKS, THE BULK OF 5G CORE SALES CAME FROM CHINA IN 3Q21: HUAWEI AND ZTE COMBINED COMMAND 49% MARKET SHARE 12
Mavenir joined the 5G core leaderboard *13*
In 4G core, Huawei maintained its lead *13*
Gaining or keeping market share in the EPC/vEPC market is a tough balancing act *14*

WE MAINTAIN OUR BELIEF THAT 2021 IS A RETURN TO NORMALCY 15

WE HAVE NOT CHANGED OUR FORECAST SINCE 2Q21 15
Meanwhile, 4Q21 is marked by a few events that may negatively affect our forecast *17*

UNCHANGED SINCE 2Q21, OUR LONG-TERM WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE MARKET FORECAST PEAKS IN 2023 18

THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON OUR UPDATED FORECAST 19
AND OPEN RAN WILL CONTINUE ITS ASCENSION 19
HOME TO THE WORLD'S LARGEST WIRELESS NETWORK FOOTPRINTS, ASIA PACIFIC WILL REMAIN THE LARGEST MARKET 21
NORTH AMERICA WILL REMAIN THE WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE MARKET AFTER ASIA PACIFIC 22
EMEA WILL CRAWL BACK TO MODERATE GROWTH 23
AND CALA WILL BOUNCE BACK IN 2022 24

Abstract

This report analyzes the 3Q21 wireless infrastructure market worldwide and covers 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G radio access network (RAN) and core network nodes. It presents historical data from 2016 to 2020, quarterly market size and vendor market shares, and a detailed market forecast through 2026 for 2G/3G/4G/5G RAN, including open vRAN, and core networks (e.g., EPC, vEPC and 5GC), in over 10 product categories for each region (e.g., North America, Europe, Middle East Africa, Asia Pacific, Caribbean Latin America). The historical data accounts for the sales of more than 30 wireless infrastructure vendors, including a few vendors that shared confidential sales data with LightCounting. The market forecast is based on a model correlating wireless infrastructure vendor sales with 20 years of service provider network rollout pattern analysis, and upgrade and expansion plans.