

JAPAN WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE 2021 – APRIL 2022

When the world's first open vRAN nation conquers the rest of the world





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Perhaps the icing on the cake? Ajit Pai joins the party	
Lastly, Rakuten Symphony goes to africa with MTN	
so are Fujitsu and NEC as RU suppliers and SI champions	
AND KDDI AND NTT DOCOMO ARE DOING THEIR PART.	
In February 2022, KDDI successfully turned on the world's first 5G SA open vRAN site	
In March 2022, NTT DOCOMO adopted the Rakuten Symphony playbook	
DOCOMO's Shared Open Lab leverages its OREC initiatives	
WHILE EMBRACING DISAGGREGATION, VIRTUALIZATION AND OPENNESS, JAPAN BELIEVES THERE IS SOME WORK BEFORE DELIVERING HIGH PERFORMING NETWORKS	
2018 WAS THE YEAR JAPAN DECIDED TO SHAKE UP ITS OLIGOPOLISTIC MOBILE MARKET, V KICKED OFF THE OPEN RAN AGENDA	
INFLUENCED BY THE U.S., THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT QUICKLY ADOPTED THE OPEN RAN AGENDA	
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4G turned out to be stronger than $5G$ and as anticipated, the whole market surged in 2021	17
Open RAN BTS accounted for 35% of total units deployed in 2021	
Despite the rise of Altiostar, Other, and Samsung, Ericsson stays #1	
As predicted, Samsung gained 1 percentage point to end 2021 with 10% market share	19
Ericsson is hanging in there	
2022 is looking up, $5G$ loaded, and shaping up as the peak	
The MIC's roadmad leads to a peak followed by a huge drop	
The Japanese government's initial 5G plan was published in April 2019	
Outdoor 5G deployments will remain above 70% throughout the forecast period	
OPEN RAN HAS THE POTENTIAL TO ACCOUNT FOR 68% OF TOTAL 5G RAN UNITS BY 2027	
Japan's open RAN-based 5G BTS configuration simplifies the counting process, it will be site cou	-
Japan's 5G looks like 1 site = 1 CU (including the DU)	23



Abstract

This report focuses on Japan's wireless infrastructure market and analyzes the implications of the introduction of Rakuten Mobile and the Japanese government's open RAN push. The publication date is scheduled a few weeks after the 4 services providers (KDDI, NTT DOCOMO, Rakuten Mobile, and Softbank) provide their interim report so that we can gather many details about 2021 and provide a 2022 outlook, a 5-year RAN forecast, and a capex outlook. This report also includes subscriber and base station (BTS) numbers and RAN vendor market shares and analysis.