



**TÉRAL RESEARCH**  
— WIRELESS INDUSTRY ANALYSIS —



## **2Q23 WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE – AUGUST 2023**

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



## Table of Contents

<b>ABSTRACT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>KEY TAKEAWAYS: 2Q23 WAS UNSURPRISINGLY DOWN BOTH YOY AND QOQ.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>NO SURPRISE: 2Q23 IS DOWN BOTH YOY AND QOQ.....</b>	<b>5</b>
THE VIBRANT SECONDHAND MARKET FOR 4G AND 5G EQUIPMENT COMING FROM THE REMOVAL OF THE CHINESE VENDORS BANNED IN SPECIFIC COUNTRIES IS NOT HELPING EITHER.....	5
HERE IS THE BRIGHT SPOT: TOGETHER, CHINA AND INDIA DEPLOYED 431,546 5G BTS IN 2Q23!.....	6
MOBILE PACKET CORE IS THE ONLY CATEGORY THAT GREW SEQUENTIALLY.....	6
EVEN WITH A SLOWER PACE OF ROLLOUTS, 5G REMAINS THE BRIGHT SPOT.....	7
<i>As mentioned in the previous 5G core section, a faster migration to SA is greatly desired.....</i>	7
<i>The potential for LTE-A and VoLTE upgrades remains phenomenal.....</i>	7
<i>The need for IMS has never been greater, what’s wrong with voice?.....</i>	8
<i>The need for new EPC is vanishing but capacity expansion continues.....</i>	8
HUAWEI EXTENDED ITS LEAD AND NOKIA GAINED SHARE AGAIN.....	8
<i>For RAN market share, Huawei and Ericsson stay neck and neck and Nokia rises by 2 percentage points...12</i>	12
IN CORE NETWORKS, THE BULK OF 5G CORE SALES AGAIN CAME FROM CHINA IN 2Q23: HUAWEI AND ZTE COMBINED COMMAND A 71% MARKET SHARE.....	12
<i>There is a huge disconnect between what Ericsson reports and the reality.....</i>	13
<i>In 4G core, Huawei maintained its lead, followed by Ericsson.....</i>	14
<i>Gaining or keeping market share in the EPC/vEPC market is a tough balancing act.....</i>	15
<b>WE HAVE PASSED THE PEAK AND WE HAVE ENTERED THE DISINVESTMENT CYCLE, 2023 WILL BE ITS SECOND YEAR.....</b>	<b>16</b>
HOWEVER, LIKE 4G, 5G WILL HAVE A LONG TAIL.....	16
2022 ENDED 4% BELOW OUR 3Q22 UPDATED FORECAST.....	17
CONSEQUENTLY, OUR FORECAST FOR 2023 REMAINS \$3B LOWER; WE DON’T FORESEE ANY IMPROVEMENT IN 2H23.....	17
<b>OUR LONG-TERM WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE MARKET FORECAST POINTS TO A DECLINING TREND.....</b>	<b>19</b>
OPEN RAN WILL CONTINUE ITS SLOW ASCENSION AND WILL LIKELY PASS THE \$1.5B BAR THIS YEAR.....	20
<i>Ironically, geopolitics fueled both the open RAN ecosystem and traditional 5G RAN rollouts led by Ericsson, Nokia, and Samsung.....</i>	21
HOME TO THE WORLD’S LARGEST WIRELESS NETWORK FOOTPRINTS, ASIA PACIFIC WILL REMAIN THE LARGEST MARKET.....	23
NORTH AMERICA WILL REMAIN THE WORLD’S SECOND LARGEST WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE MARKET AFTER ASIA PACIFIC.....	24
EMEA’S 5G WILL REMAIN FLAT THROUGH 2024.....	25
AND CALA IS BOUNCING BACK WITH STRONG GROWTH AHEAD.....	26

## Abstract

This report analyzes the 2Q23 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 2022, quarterly market size and vendor market shares, and a detailed market forecast through 2028 for 2G/3G/4G/5G RAN, including Open vRAN, and core networks (EPC, vEPC, and 5GC), for each region (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.