

Kongres Container

Middle East Communications 5G Cooperation Base Station



Overview

How many 5G networks are there in the Middle East?

This includes eight in the Middle East and 10 in Africa. The first full commercial 5G mobile service in the MEA region was introduced by Etisalat in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in May 2019, followed closely by its domestic rival Du the following month.

Who is the biggest 5G provider in Africa?

The second biggest 5G operator is Mobily, also from Saudi Arabia, which had almost 3.3 million subscriptions by end-2022. In third place is Africa's largest fifth-generation provider, Vodacom South Africa, with around 2.7 million.

Is 5G available in UAE?

The UAE government confirmed the award of 5G-capable 3.3GHz-3.8GHz spectrum to Etisalat and Du in November 2018. In May 2019, with 5G-capable handsets now available to UAE customers, the Etisalat network was opened for full mobile use.

Will Etisalat upgrade to 5G?

Etisalat claimed that the upgrade would offer "a significant improvement" for its business and residential mobile customers. Meanwhile, Du launched 5G in June 2019, just days after Etisalat. In February 2020 it switched on the country's first mmWave base station using 26GHz spectrum.

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