

What are the UAE's hybrid energy 5G network base stations



Overview

How many 5G stations are there in the UAE?

5G is well-deployed in major urban areas and along main transport routes, but less so in more rural areas. The UAE is estimated to have approximately 7,000 5G base stations, representing seven stations per 10,000 residents. The two principal network operators (Etisalat by e& and Du) as well as the main VMNO Virgin Mobile offer 5G connectivity.

What is the UAE Strategy for 5G & beyond?

This is in line with the UAE Strategy for 5G and Beyond (2020-2025), which includes enabling and achieving long-term social and economic benefits in various areas such as manufacturing, transportation, healthcare, and education. ⁶ The TDRA published a White Paper on 5G roles in Industry Digitalisation in the UAE in October 2022 (White Paper).

Are 5G base stations more energy efficient than 4G BSS?

The energy consumption of 5G base stations (BSs) is significantly higher than that of 4G BSs, creating challenges for operators due to increased costs and carbon emissions. Existing solutions address this issue by switching off BSs during specific periods or forming cooperation coalitions where some BSs deactivate while others serve users.

Is du deploying 5g-a Technology in the UAE?

Du launched its 5G SA technology in 2023 and has made significant strides in deploying 5G-Advanced (5G-A) technology in the UAE. Du is reported to have already installed hundreds of 5G-A base stations after carrying out 5G-A trials in October 2023, which paved the way for initial commercial launch of the technology in January 2024.

Which network operators offer 5G connectivity?

The two principal network operators (Etisalat by e& and Du) as well as the

main VMNO Virgin Mobile offer 5G connectivity. The 5G penetration rate was assessed as being 19.4% as at June 2022 (TDRA 5G White Paper – see question 3 below).

How many 5g-a base stations does du have?

Du is reported to have already installed hundreds of 5G-A base stations after carrying out 5G-A trials in October 2023, which paved the way for initial commercial launch of the technology in January 2024. Du plans to expand this network nationwide by 2026.

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