

The Road to LTE Worldwide: Is WiMAX Really the Enemy?

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Report Summary

The LTE roadmap has been largely accepted by most major mobile operators. WiMAX is thought to be a competitor to LTE. However, both LTE and WiMAX use OFDM as their signal technology. In-Stat believes that many of the companies that specialize in WiMAX will try to leverage their core-competencies to create LTE portfolios in addition to their WiMAX portfolios. In short, excellence developed in WiMAX may ultimately promote excellence in LTE.

While the LTE/WiMAX scenarios will sort themselves out, the greatest concern to the widespread adoption is existing 3G networks. The majority of mobile operators will use HSPA protocols to upgrade their existing WCDMA networks in lieu of jumping into LTE.

Here are In-Stat's key findings in this report about LTE:

- In the fall of 2010, the first LTE devices to ship will be USB dongles and other PC cards. LTE chipsets embedded in PCs come next.
- In-Stat does not expect LTE handsets until the tail-end of 2011 and does not foresee LTE handset shipments in significant volumes until late 2012.
- There will be \diamond million device subscriptions to LTE services in 2013.
- In 2013, broadband use from LTE devices will represent \diamond % of all wireless backhaul.

The report takes an in-depth look at LTE and competing technologies on the road to the roll-outs of LTE. It begins by examining the move from 3G UMTS to LTE-Advanced and the relative growth drivers and inhibitors of the transition including usage patterns, net neutrality, spectrum and radio issues, backhaul, devices, and other important factors. It then addresses WiMAX and the effect that WiMAX has on LTE. Finally, it will provide the LTE subscriber forecast and forecast for portable devices, mobile handsets, residential devices, and M2M devices with LTE.

HIGHLIGHTS

- With the exception of TeliaSonera, LTE deployments will effectively begin in 2010. North America and Asia/Pacific will be the first regions to deploy.
- The adoption of LTE will be impeded by the success of 3G networks and HSPA and HSPA+ networks. Mobile operators are determined to leverage their installed infrastructure.
- LTE has several glaring issues that could affect its widespread deployment. Key issues facing LTE are lack of spectrum, signal-to-noise ratio, and non-established patent and royalty pool.
- LTE and WiMAX are both OFDM-based technologies. Infrastructure claims that certain aspects of the technologies are reusable.
- WiMAX looks to be prominent in some markets. However, WiMAX deployments have given chipset and device manufacturers, and infrastructure suppliers, real-world experience in OFDM.

For more information or to purchase, see the [report online](#) or call 1.480.483.4441.

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