

# CommsWire

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## 5G FORECASTED TO CAPTURE 2.6B SUBSCRIPTIONS



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# 5G GLOBAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FORECAST TO TOP 2.6 BILLION BY 2025

**The global number of 5G subscriptions is forecast to top 2.6 billion within the next six years, driven by sustained momentum and a rapidly developing 5G ecosystem.**

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The forecast by Swedish telecommunications equipment maker Ericsson is included in the November 2019 edition of the Ericsson Mobility Report.

The report shows that the average monthly data-traffic-per-smartphone is forecast to increase from the current figure of 7.2 GB to 24 GB by the end of 2025 - in part driven by new consumer behaviour, such as Virtual Reality (VR) streaming.

“With 7.2 GB per month, one can stream 21 minutes of HD video (1280 x 720) daily, while 24 GB would allow streaming 30 minutes of HD video with an additional six minutes of VR each day,” the report notes.



The report also projects that 5G will cover up to 65% of the global population by the end of 2025, and handle 45% of global mobile data traffic.

According to Ericsson, 2019 is the year leading communications service providers in Asia, Australia, Europe, Middle East, and North America switched on their 5G networks.

Ericsson says that South Korea has already seen a big 5G uptake since its April 2019 launch - with more than three million subscriptions collectively recorded by the country’s service providers by the end of September 2019.

China’s launch of 5G in late October has also led to an update of the estimated 5G subscriptions for year-end 2019, from 10 million to 13 million, the report notes.

Fredrik Jejdling, Executive Vice President and Head of Networks, Ericsson, says: “It is encouraging to see that 5G now has broad support from almost all device makers”.



“In 2020, 5G-compatible devices will enter the volume market, which will scale up 5G adoption.

“The question is no longer if, but how quickly we can convert use cases into relevant applications for consumers and enterprises.

“With 4G remaining a strong connectivity enabler in many parts

of the world, modernising networks is also key to this technological change we’re going through.”

Ericsson says that, given its current momentum, 5G subscriptions uptake is expected to be significantly faster than that of LTE.

The most rapid uptake is expected in North America with 74% of mobile subscriptions in the region forecast to be 5G by the end of 2025, and North East Asia is expected to follow at 56%, with Europe at 55%.

Other forecasts by Ericsson include:

- The total number of cellular IoT connections is now seen at five billion by the end of 2025 from 1.3 billion by end 2019 – a compound annual growth rate of 25%.
- NB-IoT and Cat-M technologies are estimated to account for 52 percent of these cellular IoT connections in 2025.

Ericsson also reports that year-on-year traffic growth for the third quarter of 2019 was high at 68%.

The growth was driven by the growing number of smartphone subscriptions in India, the increased monthly data traffic per smartphone in China, better device capabilities, an increase in data-intensive content, and more affordable data plans.

**Peter Dinham**

# TURNBULL AGAIN ACCUSED OF SPREADING WRONG INFO ABOUT 5G

**Former Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull has been accused of continuing to spread misinformation about the security architecture of 5G networks, with a Huawei Australia official claiming he was still relying on incorrect technical advice given while in office.**

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Huawei said in a statement that Turnbull had made the incorrect comments to Sky News on Wednesday morning.



"It is possible to have equipment from what you might call high-risk vendors in fixed-line networks where the equipment is at the edge of the network and the risk to the overall networks because the equipment is at the very edge of the network is much less," the former PM (left) was said to have told Sky News in response to queries about the decision taken in August 2018 to ban Huawei from tendering for 5G in Australia.

"In 5G, where my government did take the decision to take high-risk vendors out of it because of the different nature of that network, because of the virtualisation of that network and the distributed processing of it there isn't really an edge [to the network] in the way that there is in many of the traditional fixed-line networks," Turnbull added.

The statement pointed out that the British Parliamentary Committee on Science and Technology had said in a recent report to Parliament that there was a clear separation between core and (non-core) Radio Access Networks in a 5G network architecture.

Committee chairman Norman Lamb was quoted as saying: "Although the Australian Government has concluded that the distinction between core and non-core elements of 5G networks will be less clear than for previous technology generations, we heard unanimously and clearly that a distinction between the core and non-core elements of a 5G network will still exist."

This is not the first time Turnbull has made statements like this. In March, Jeremy Mitchell, the company's director of Corporate and Public Affairs, accused Turnbull of spreading [myths](#) about the lack of separation between the 5G core and radio access network during a speech he gave in the UK.

Regarding his comments on Sky News, Mitchell said on Wednesday: "It is very disappointing that Turnbull continues to rely on factually incorrect information when commenting on his government's decision to exclude Huawei from delivering 5G in Australia.

"As has been seen from multiple real-world deployments of commercial 5G networks in countries such as the UK, Switzerland, Spain and South Korea, operators are using Huawei technology in their Radio Access Networks and [equipment] from other vendors in their core networks.

"This proves unequivocally that the core and RAN networks can – and are – being split in 5G deployments in the real world – which disproves the incorrect advice he (Turnbull) was given."

**Sam Varghese**

# ACMA WARNS TELSTRA ABOUT EXCESS DATA USAGE NOTICES

**The Australian Communications and Media Authority has issued Telstra a formal warning for the dominant telco's failure to email more than 150,000 mobile broadband customers about excess data usage, resulting in these people having to fork out for the data.**

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An ACMA statement said Telstra's systems were configured to send SMS notifications about the usage - but these could not be received by broadband customers who were not connected through a mobile phone account.



ACMA chair Nerida O'Loughlin said Telstra had conveyed the fact that, between September 2013 and May 2019, it had breached its obligations under the Telecommunications Consumer Protections Code to inform customers about excess usage.

“Usage notifications give people due warning that they may be about to incur additional charges for their broadband services,” O’Loughlin said.

“The code requires suppliers to send notifications within 48 hours of customers reaching specified data usage quotas on post-paid Internet plans.

“Consumers have a right to make informed decisions about their broadband use, and by failing to send these notifications in the correct format people have had to pay excess usage charges without sufficient warning.”

The ACMA statement said Telstra had refunded all customers who complained and had incurred excess charge of \$5 or less.

All other affected customers had been advised they could claim a refund using an online form.

“We encourage current or former Telstra mobile broadband customers to contact Telstra for a refund if they believe they incurred excess usage charges as a result of not receiving a usage notification,” O’Loughlin said.

She said any further breaches were likely to result in more serious action.

“The ACMA has asked Telstra to report regularly on its progress of refunding affected customers until all customers have been reimbursed,” O’Loughlin added.

**Sam Varghese**

## NEW ACMA CRACKDOWN TARGETS SCAMS OVER PHONE NETWORKS

**A crackdown on scams perpetrated over phone networks is underway as the Australian Government works with the telecommunications industry regulator ACMA in an effort to combat the increasing scourge of scams.**

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The first of three pilot trials to be conducted across the telecommunications industry to combat common phone scams and techniques is already underway, with the action plan signed off by the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, Paul Fletcher.



The ‘Combating Scams: Action Plan’ was released by the [Australian Communications and Media Authority \(ACMA\)](#) on Wednesday.

The first trial involves telcos identifying and blocking calls which appear to come from a well-known Australian organisation but are actually made by scammers.

The second and third trials will start in the first quarter of 2020, and will target scam calls that try to entice

Australians to call expensive premium numbers (by leaving a missed call on their mobile phone) and will also crack down on networks that carry a high volume of scam traffic.

Minister Fletcher said on Wednesday that in recent months there have been numerous reports of scammers using phone numbers of organisations such as the Australian Taxation Office and NBN Co.

“I want to thank the ACMA for this report and I look forward to working in partnership with industry to run these pilot trials as soon as possible,” Minister Fletcher said.

“For too long, scammers have been targeting Australians.

“At the very least, they have been creating a major inconvenience, by harassing us over the phone, email and Internet.

“At worst, they have caused victims significant emotional and financial hardship.

“This is why the Morrison Government is committed to taking action. If criminals are using technology to scam Australians, we will use technology to fight back.”

Commenting on the scam report by the ACCC, the Labor Party's Shadow Minister for Communications Michelle Rowland said: “The ACCC reports losses to scams will exceed a record \$532 million by the end of 2019.

“This alone highlights the industrial scale laziness of this three-term Liberal Government when it comes to tackling telephone scams.”

“Australians expect strong and timely action to keep them safe – yet the rudimentary steps and trials outlined today could have been commenced years ago.

"What consumers needed was strong and timely action, yet this Government has dragged its heels for absolutely no reason.

“The elementary steps and trials outlined today could and should have been commenced years ago.

"Minister Fletcher’s foreshadowing of “expected benefits” in the next few months shows just how hopeless this Government has been.

“If it was possible to deliver benefits in a few months, why has it taken years?”

The ACMA leads the Scam Technology Project in collaboration with the ACCC, the Australian Cyber Security Centre and with experienced telecommunications industry experts, to investigate technical solutions to scams perpetrated over telecommunications networks.

The investigations follow a formal direction issued by Minister Fletcher in October to the ACMA to make new rules mandating stronger identity verification processes before mobile numbers can be transferred between providers, to combat fraudulent mobile number porting.

All telcos are required to have implemented the standard by the end of April 2020.

**Peter Dinham**

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