

Five reasons to adopt Open RAN now

In partnership with

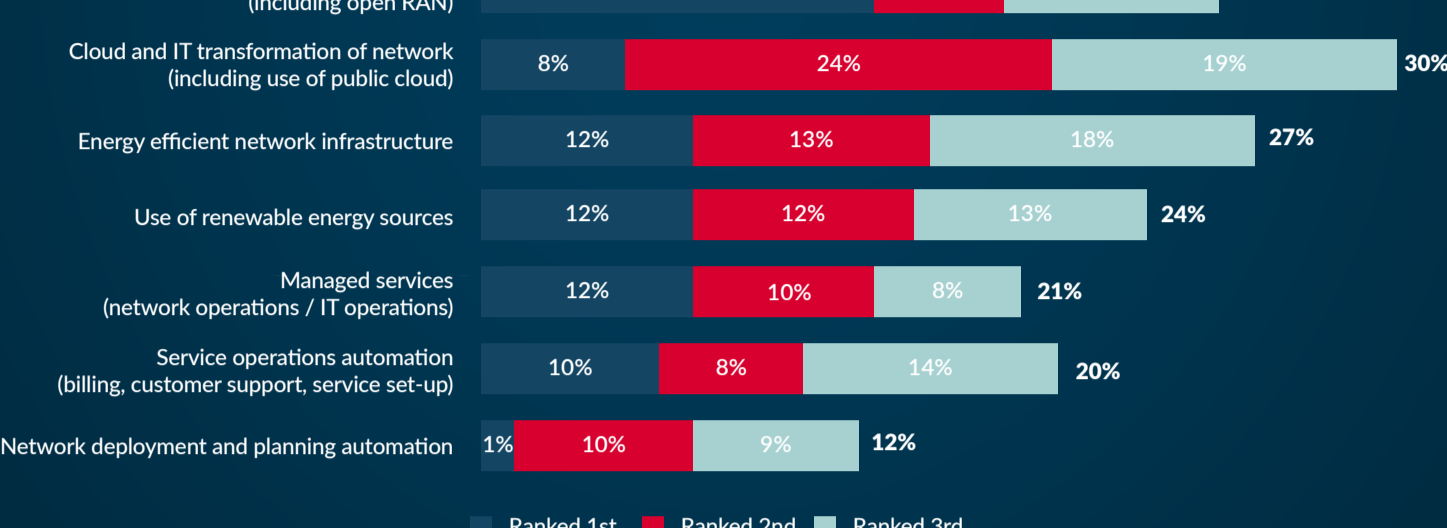
Orchestrating a brighter world



Reason 1

Operators see Open RAN as a trigger for transformation

GSMA Intelligence research shows that the majority of operators see 5G, and Open RAN in particular, as a means of achieving a transformation of their networks, operations and organization.



Source: GSMA Intelligence Operators in Focus: Network Transformation Survey 2022

When it comes to Opex reduction, operators rank open networking technologies as the second most promising means of driving savings. However, it should be noted that network operations automation, the use of cloud and IT technologies and energy efficiency are all part of the Open RAN initiative.

Reason 2

Open RAN is here to stay

Since the establishment of the Telecom Infra Project (TIP) in 2016 and the merger of C-RAN Alliance and xRAN Alliance to form the O-RAN ALLIANCE in 2018, a significant amount of progress has been made in delivering Open RAN specifications and solutions to the market.

OpenRAN Trials and Deployments



Source: TIP OpenRAN Project trials and deployments

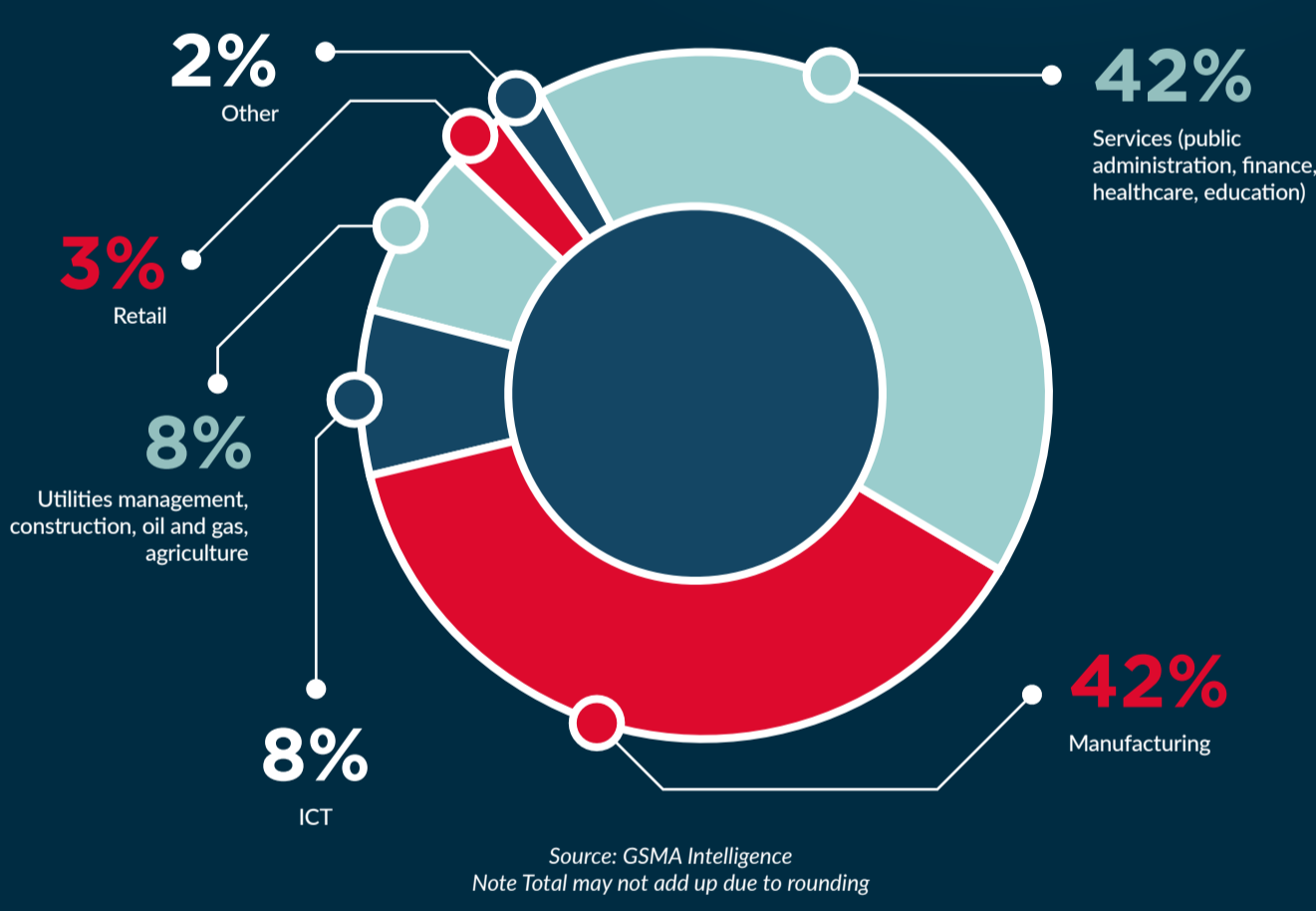
GSMA Intelligence constantly monitors Open RAN commitments, deployments and public announcements. As of January 2023, GSMA Intelligence counted 92 unique operators commercially launched or actively testing, planning or designing an Open RAN network launch. While there are a number of high-profile, marquee plans and deployments, the interest is global and widespread – touching all regions and developed as well as developing countries. Asia leads with about one-third of the commercial deployments and plans, followed by Europe (20%). The remaining activity is spread roughly evenly across the globe.

Reason 3

Supporting the original 5G vision

5G was designed not only to provide better and faster consumer services, but also to provide more efficient solutions for non-consumer markets. 4G LTE made it possible for operators to address enterprise needs for advanced solutions beyond connectivity. It is this experience that formed the basis for URLLC and mMTC requirements in 5G and drove the architectural choices that ultimately made 5G what it is today. Open RAN with its focus on both horizontal and vertical disaggregation allowing virtualized functions to be instantiated on COTS servers make it possible to meet these requirements.

Global 5G contribution by industry, 2023



Source: GSMA Intelligence
Note: Total may not add up due to rounding

Reason 4

Open ecosystems critical to 5G success

As operators enter new markets offering new 5G-based solutions, a broader set of competencies and expertise need to be brought to the table, which is why the establishment of broad, diverse ecosystems that include non-traditional telecom vendors is important.

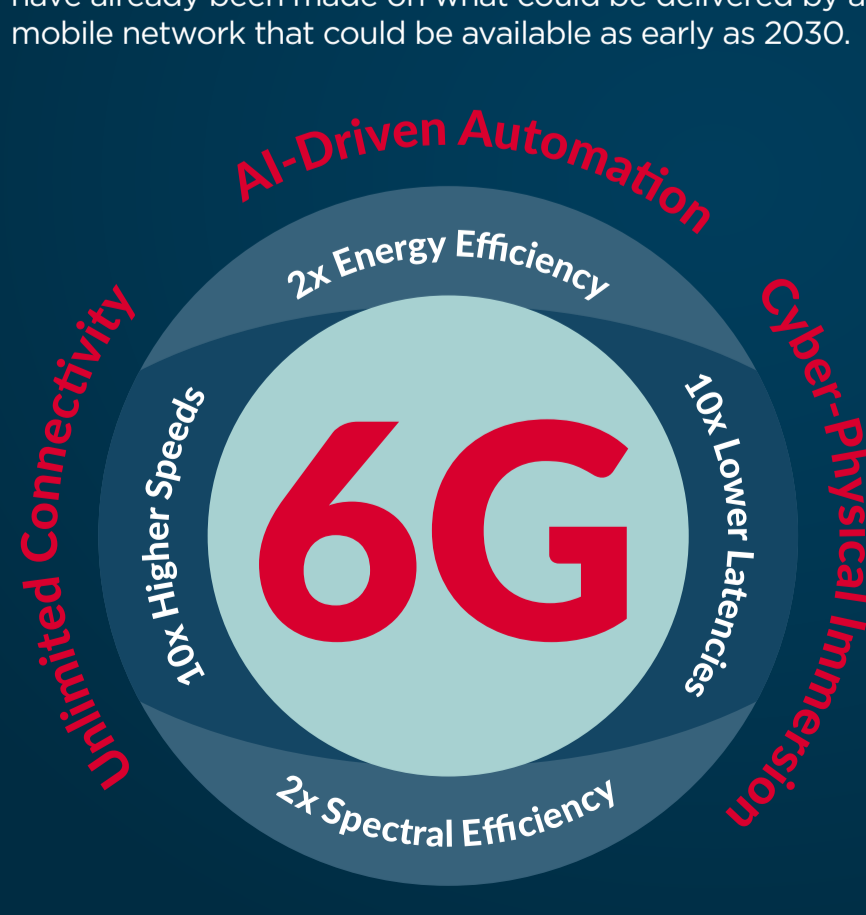


The advantage of an Open RAN approach not only includes the intelligence that Open RAN RICs provide, but also the openness to accommodate third-party vendors. The open nature of Open RAN deployments enables collaboration where enterprise vendors can provide xApps and rApps or can host their software applications on the 5G MEC.

Reason 5

Building the foundation for 6G

While 5G is the current focus, discussions have already begun on "Beyond 5G" and 6G requirements. Many vendors have already shared their visions for a 6G future, while calculations have already been made on what could be delivered by a 6G mobile network that could be available as early as 2030.



The principles introduced by Open RAN with regard to vertical disaggregation of hardware and software, the separation of management and control in the network itself and the use of AI in SMO/RIC implementations to automate decision making provide the path to achieving the 6G vision.

For more information on this please read our whitepaper