

# 2G and 3G network shutdowns: Rationale, lessons learned and best practices

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## Abstracts

The arrival of 5G networks has led operators and regulators to consider shutting down older mobile legacy networks. The coming period up to 2025 is thus expected to be the one with the most 2G and 3G network sunsets ever.

The shutdown of legacy networks allows MNOs to refarm spectrum and shift frequencies towards new and more spectral-efficient networks.

By reducing the number of mobile generations supported and accompanying the migration processes, MNOs will be able to reduce their expenses, including OpEx.

This extensive bottom-up study covers 15 countries and more than 40 MNOs and offers:

- A state of the art of mobile network evolution

- Best practices for network shutdown

- Regulatory issues related to the shutdown process

- Opportunities and challenges of the transition

- A detailed overview of MNO strategies in 15 countries

## Contents

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 2. STATE OF THE ART

The evolution of mobile networks

Network decommissioning

Network shutdowns become more numerous

Selection of countries where 2G/3G are no longer supported

Key announced drivers for shutting down old network

### 3. SHUTDOWN BEST PRACTICES

Best practices for a successful legacy network shutdown process

Best marketing levers for a successful legacy network shutdown

Secure the IoT customer base with specific actions

### 4. REGULATORY ISSUES

Different degrees of regulatory involvement

Shutdown processes mainly led by MNOs

### 5. OPPORTUNITIES

4G and 5G much more efficient than 2G or 3G

Less users in older technologies

Spectrum influences how the network is designed

Getting additional spectrum

DSS eases the transition from NSA to 5G SA

Main paths to reduce energy consumption

Replacement of old network equipment (2G/3G/4G)

### 6. CHALLENGING ISSUES

Manage the transition efficiently and in advance

IoT business

IoT technologies over cellular

## **7. OVERVIEW OF COUNTRY AND MNO STRATEGIES**

- 7.1. China
- 7.2. Czech Republic
- 7.3. France
- 7.4. Germany
- 7.5. Italy
- 7.6. Japan
- 7.7. Netherlands
- 7.8. Norway
- 7.9. Singapore
- 7.10. South Korea
- 7.11. Spain
- 7.12. Switzerland
- 7.13. Taiwan
- 7.14. United Kingdom
- 7.15. United States

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