

Middle East & Africa Telecom Cloud Market Size and Forecast (2021 - 2031), Regional Share, Trend, and Growth Opportunity Analysis Report Coverage: Component (Solution and Services), Deployment (Public Cloud, Private Cloud, and Hybrid Cloud), Service Model (Software-as-a-Service, Infrastructure-as-a-Service, and Platform-as-a-Service), and End User (SMEs and Large Enterprises)

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Abstracts

The Middle East and Africa (MEA) Telecom Cloud Market is projected to grow significantly, reaching an estimated US\$ 6,417.1 million by 2031, up from US\$ 1,680.4 million in 2024. This growth represents a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 21.2% from 2025 to 2031, driven by increasing investments in cloud infrastructure by governments and enterprises in the region. These investments are primarily aimed at supporting the deployment of 5G technology, the Internet of Things (IoT), and enhanced data services, which in turn is fueling the demand for scalable, flexible, and cost-effective cloud solutions.

Key markets leading the adoption of telecom cloud platforms include the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and Nigeria. These countries are leveraging partnerships with global cloud service providers to accelerate the virtualization of networks and enhance edge computing capabilities. Despite facing challenges such as regulatory complexities, cybersecurity concerns, and infrastructure gaps, regional collaborations and investments are being made to address these issues. For instance, in 2023, Ooredoo Group secured a US\$550 million financing deal to enhance its data center and AI infrastructure across the MENA region, highlighting the

growing demand for cloud services.

In terms of connectivity, AFR-IX Telecom has partnered with Libyan United International for Telecommunication and Technology to establish a subsea cable in Tripoli and Benghazi, which will improve regional connectivity. Additionally, Hormuud Telecom launched 5G services in Somalia in 2025, offering impressive speeds of up to 400Gbps per wavelength and total capacity options reaching 38Tbps. Furthermore, AFR-IX Telecom received a €14.3 million (approximately US\$15.7 million) grant from the European Commission to extend the Medusa Subsea Cable System into West Africa, including the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Middle East and Africa Telecom Cloud Market can be segmented by various components. By component, the market is divided into Solutions and Services, with Solutions holding the largest market share in 2024. In terms of deployment, the market is categorized into Public Cloud, Private Cloud, and Hybrid Cloud, where Public Cloud is expected to dominate. The service model segmentation includes Software-as-a-Service (SaaS), Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS), and Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS), with SaaS leading the market. Lastly, by end user, the market is segmented into Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Large Enterprises, with Large Enterprises holding the largest share in 2024.

As telecom operators transition critical network functions and customer services to the cloud, the demand for advanced security solutions is increasing. The adoption of blockchain technology is emerging as a key trend to enhance security, transparency, and trust across distributed systems within the telecom cloud landscape. Blockchain's decentralized and tamper-proof architecture facilitates secure data sharing, transaction validation, and identity authentication, making it particularly valuable in complex cloud environments. Potential applications for blockchain in telecom include fraud prevention in roaming and billing, secure identity management for IoT devices, verification of service-level agreements (SLAs), and automation of inter-operator settlements through smart contracts.

A notable example of blockchain integration is the Oracle Cloud Infrastructure Blockchain Platform, which is designed to run smart contracts and maintain a tamper-proof distributed ledger. Built on the open-source Hyperledger Fabric, this platform simplifies the development of secure and verifiable applications that can share immutable, trusted data with third parties, such as suppliers and financial institutions. This model aligns well with the telecom sector's need for transparent and decentralized coordination among multiple service layers and external entities. As blockchain

platforms like Oracle's become more integrated with cloud-native infrastructure, telecom companies are likely to adopt them to enhance data governance, regulatory compliance, and interconnectivity with partners.

Country-wise, the UAE is currently the largest market in the MEA Telecom Cloud sector. The UAE's telecom industry has evolved from traditional connectivity to a robust cloud infrastructure ecosystem, with major operators such as e& (formerly Etisalat) and du expanding their cloud and AI services. This transformation is driven by the UAE's National AI Strategy and Vision 2031, which aim to establish the country as a global digital and AI hub. Operators are now offering hybrid and sovereign cloud platforms powered by global partners like AWS, Microsoft Azure, Oracle, Cisco, and Intel, catering to the needs of government, enterprises, and SMEs while ensuring data sovereignty and regulatory compliance. Innovations such as private AI clouds, Cloud RAN, and multi-cloud platforms that integrate 5G, network slicing, and TrustNet are laying the groundwork for next-generation services in the region.

Key players in the Telecom Cloud Market include Amazon Web Services Inc., International Business Machines Corp, Microsoft Corp, Google LLC, Verizon Communications Inc., Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson, Broadcom Inc., Cisco Systems Inc., Telstra Corp. Ltd., and AT&T Inc. These companies are employing various strategies such as expansion, product innovation, and mergers and acquisitions to enhance their market presence and offer innovative products to consumers.

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