

VIRTUAL AND OPEN RADIO ACCESS NETWORKS – JUNE 2021

It's the end of the (RAN) world as we know it, and I (open vRAN) feel fine





Table of Contents

ABSTRACT	4
KEY TAKEAWAYS	5
OPEN VRAN IS SET TO RULE THE WORLD AND RUIN THE TRADITIONAL RAN ESTABLISHMENT, UTTO TH	
THE THORNY HUAWEI REMOVAL ISSUE THAT LED TO UNPRECEDENTED MULTINATIONAL COOPERATION IS THE POSITIVE FORCE.	
For most of the world, the mission to ban the Chinese vendors is accomplished	
And international cooperation is at its best	
All this led to a rapid expansion of a crowded open RAN ecosystem	
BUT THE FAST 5G COMMERCIAL NETWORKS ROLLOUT CYCLE IS THE NEGATIVE FORCE	
And that evokes George Stigler's survivorship principle	
Expect consolidation to ramp up	
CONSEQUENTLY, THE SHARE OF 2G/3G/4G IN THE OPEN VRAN MARKET WILL REMAIN SIGNIFICANT FOR SOME TIME COME	ТО
So far, 95% of commercial open RAN networks are running RAN functions on software	
vRAN and open RAN are 2 different configurations	
An open RAN does not need to be virtual	
RAKUTEN MOBILE ENDED 2020 WITH 10,984 OPEN VRAN 4G SITES	
and accounted for 65% of total open vRAN sales in 2020	
There is a growing consensus that hardware cost needs to come downdown	
IN 2021, THE OPEN VRAN MARKET IS POISED FOR 86% YOY GROWTH IN SALES	14
DISH, Telefónica and Vodafone are joining Rakuten Mobile and will kick off the world's first open RA brownfield deployments	
DISH and Rakuten Mobile bring cloud RAN to prime time	
We do not expect India to kick in this year for either 4G or 5G	
IN 2022, DISH AND THE "RIP & REPLACE" INITIATIVE WILL PROPEL NORTH AMERICA TO THE WORLD'S LARGEST MAR	RKET
POSITION	
AT&T, T-Mobile US and Verizon are taking their time, claiming open RAN is far from maturity	
Telefónica and Vodafone will continue to drive open vRAN deployments in Europe	
and Japan will become the world's first open vRAN nation	
IN 2023, EUROPE WILL SHOW THE STRONGEST GROWTH, DRIVEN BY 2 RAKUTEN/DISH CLONES	
Consequently, we expect the global open vRAN market to account for 8% of the total RAN market in	
Consequently, we expect the global open VKAN market to account for 6% of the total KAN market in	_
OPEN VRAN IS A STRONG CANDIDATE FOR INDOOR DAS REPLACEMENT	21
In 2026, the indoor open vRAN/open DAS market will surpass indoor DAS	22
The neutral host capability has been protecting the DAS market so far but open vRAN can kill it all to	ogether
	22





Private wireless networks remain an open vRAN niche for now but 99% of large enterprise insta	llations are
traditional RAN	23
However, as DAS replacement shifts to smaller venues, open vRAN will eventually penetrate the S	SME space
at some pointat	23
Indoor 5G coverage is the vRAN driving force	23
The shift from DAS to C-RAN to open vRAN architecture is shaking the traditional DAS vendor ec	osystem .23
In this DAS bucket, JMA Wireless is unique	25



Abstract

This report takes a deep dive into the virtualization and disaggregation of radio access networks and analyzes the various schools of thoughts ranging from basic virtualization of RAN functions (vRAN) to new open architectures such as open RAN, following the TIP initiative and the O-RAN Alliance specifications, designed to cut the dependency on proprietary RAN equipment supplied by the traditional vendors. The vRAN segment is taken from our existing RAN size and forecasts and broken down by 2G/3G/4G versus 5G, as well as by vCU/vDU and RU for each region, and also looks at the potential for indoor DAS replacement. The report covers a wide emerging ecosystem of vendors.