

## JAPAN WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE 1H22 – SEPTEMBER 2022

## The world's first open vRAN nation conquers the rest of the world while its domestic 5G rollouts stall





## **Table of Contents**

ABSTRACT	4
KEY TAKEAWAYS	5
JAPAN IS SHOWING THE WORLD WHAT A 5G OPEN VRAN ISLAND LOOKS LIKE	6
Now, Rakuten Symphony is quickly expanding and about to rule the world	7
The telecom world welcomes symworld, the nf app marketplace	7
Rakuten Symphony conquers the world	
Qualcomm comes to the 5G open ran massive mimo rescue	
AT&T turns to Rakuten Symphony for network planning help	
Cisco brings its mobile, switching & routing, and automation portfolio to Rakuten Symphony	
Rakuten Symphony adds robin.io to its quiver	
Rakuten Symphony selects nokia's cloud native software as first symworld partner	
Perhaps the icing on the cake? Ajit Pai joins the party	
Lastly, Rakuten Symphony goes to africa with MTN	
so are Fujitsu and NEC as RU suppliers and SI champions	11
AND KDDI AND NTT DOCOMO ARE DOING THEIR PART	12
In February 2022, KDDI successfully turned on the world's first 5G SA open vRAN site	
In March 2022, NTT DOCOMO adopted the Rakuten Symphony playbook	
DOCOMO's Shared Open Lab leverages its OREC initiatives	
While embracing disaggregation, virtualization and openness, Japan believes there is some work	TO BE DONE
BEFORE DELIVERING HIGH PERFORMING NETWORKS	15
2018 WAS THE YEAR JAPAN DECIDED TO SHAKE UP ITS OLIGOPOLISTIC MOBILE MARKET, KICKED OFF THE OPEN RAN AGENDA	
INFLUENCED BY THE U.S., THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT QUICKLY ADOPTED THE OPEN RAN AGENDA	16
AND GIVING INCENTIVES TO FUJITSU AND NEC TO STRENGTHEN THEIR MARKET POSITION	16
THE U.S. ALSO ASKED NTT AND NEC TO BE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE OPEN RAN POLICY COALITION	17
AND NOW THE U.S. AND JAPAN ARE COLLABORATING ON MULTIPLE FRONTS, INCLUDING 6G	17
CONSEQUENTLY, DESPITE A DISMAL 2Q22 FOR 5G, JAPAN'S RAN MARKET IS VIBRANT AND	LOOKING
UP	
Open RAN BTS accounted for 42% of total units deployed in 1H22	
Fujitsu was the hardest hit, the other vendors faired well in 1H22	
As predicted, Samsung gained 1 percentage point to end 2021 with 10% market share and con	
ascension in 1H22	
Ericsson is hanging in there	
2022 IS LOOKING UP, 5G LOADED, AND SHAPING UP AS THE PEAK	
The MIC's roadmad leads to a peak followed by a huge drop	
The Japanese government's initial 5G plan was published in April 2019	
Outdoor 5G deployments will remain above 70% throughout the forecast period	
OPEN RAN HAS THE POTENTIAL TO ACCOUNT FOR 68% OF TOTAL 5G RAN UNITS BY 2027	
Japan's open RAN-based 5G BTS configuration simplifies the counting process, it will be site cou	ınting24



Japan's 5G looks like 1 site = 1 CU (including the DU)......24



## Abstract

This report focuses on Japan's wireless infrastructure market and analyzes the implications of the introduction of Rakuten Mobile and the Japanese government's open RAN push. The publication date is scheduled a few weeks after the 4 services providers (KDDI, NTT DOCOMO, Rakuten Mobile, and Softbank) provide their interim report so that we can gather many details about 1H22 and provide 2022 outlook, a 5-year RAN forecast, and a capex outlook. This report also includes subscriber and base station (BTS) numbers and RAN vendor market shares and analysis.