

SolarTech Power Solutions

How many base stations does New Zealand's 5G network have



Overview

Where is 5G available in NZ?

In NZ 5G has already been launched by Spark and Vodafone in limited locations, with further rollout planned in the near future. Spark initially trialled 5G wireless in Alexandra, and then extended 5G to parts of Westport, Twizel, Tekapo, Hokitika and Clyde.

What is a 5G network in Aotearoa New Zealand?

The 5G network is more technologically advanced and implementation has begun throughout the world and here in Aotearoa New Zealand. All cellular networks use radio waves to transmit data. Like light, radio waves are a type of electromagnetic radiation. Radio waves have been used in NZ for radio since the 1920s and cell phones since the 1980s.

What frequencies will 5G use in NZ?

The initial roll out of 5G in NZ will use frequencies in the same range as 4G. In the future, the network will use a higher frequency (lower wavelength waves) – known as millimetre waves. These are closer in frequency to those used for satellite communications and some vehicle radars.

Why does NZ need 5G?

It has a larger network capacity. 5G will have a greater capacity for volume of traffic so e.g. more people can livestream the same event without buffering issues. NZ is physically isolated and 5G enables better connectivity with the rest of the world.

Are 5G cell sites covered by New Zealand radiofrequency exposure standard?

Yes. The frequencies to be used by 5G cell sites and devices are similar to those that have been used by existing technologies for many years, and are covered by the limits in New Zealand Radiofrequency Exposure Standard. (more information on the New Zealand Standard is provided on page 3 of this pack).

Will 5G increase exposure in NZ?

While 5G may use more cell sites, the amount of exposure from each site will be lower as the number of sites grow. There is little evidence to suggest that exposures in NZ would significantly increase with 5G, and the regulation and monitoring in place already limits exposure.

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