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Commentary

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Building Better Power Supplies For 5G Base Stations

by Alessandro Pevere, and Francesco Di Domenico, Infineon Technologies, Villach, Austria

Demand for mobile data is growing 40% year over year, according to Ofcom, the UK's telecoms regulator. Ofcom says that servicing this demand will involve releasing more spectrum, especially in millimeter wavebands, making efficient use of all the available mobile spectrum, and building additional cell sites. This last item will be particularly important when millimeter-wave (mmWave) spectrum becomes available, since it can deliver a lot of bandwidth, but only over relatively short distances compared to base stations operating at less than 6 GHz.

The Small Cell Forum, which represents companies that make and use the small cell sites needed to make the most of mmWave spectrum, forecasts steady growth in their deployment over the next five years (see graph in Fig. 1).

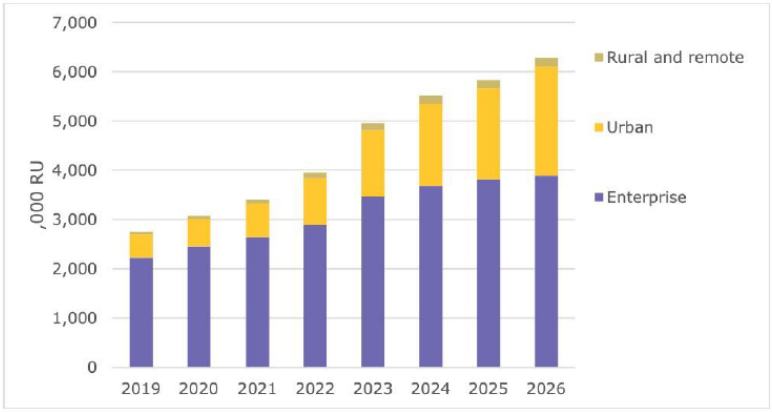


Figure 1–1 New deployments and upgrades of small cells by environment 2019-26 (by numbers of radio units deployed or upgraded)

Fig. 1. Data courtesy of the Small Cell Forum.

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Authored by:
Alessandro Pevere, and Francesco Di Domenico, both at Infineon Technologies