

Mobile Communication Sharing Tower



Overview

Telecom service providers can share infrastructure in many ways, depending on telecom regulatory and legislation.

Key Takeaways

Mobile communication sharing towers allow multiple network operators to co-locate their equipment on a single tower, reducing costs, improving coverage, and promoting sustainable infrastructure use.

Tower sharing is a practice where multiple mobile network operators (MNOs) share the same physical infrastructure to deliver mobile services, rather than each operator building separate towers. This approach reduces capital expenditure, operational costs, and environmental impact while enabling faster network deployment and improved coverage, especially in rural or less profitable areas. It also lowers barriers to entry for smaller or new operators, fostering competition and efficient resource utilization.

Passive vs Active Infrastructure

Passive infrastructure includes the physical components that support mobile networks but do not actively process signals. Key elements are:

- Towers, poles, and masts for mounting antennas
- Shelters and buildings housing base transceiver stations (BTS)



- Power supply and backup systems, such as battery banks, diesel generators, and solar panels
 - Air conditioning units to maintain stable conditions for sensitive equipment
- Active infrastructure, on the other hand, consists of antennas, RF cables, radio access networks (RAN), and transmission systems that actively process and transmit signals . Tower sharing typically focuses on passive infrastructure, allowing operators to install their own active equipment on shared towers.

Tower Sharing Companies (TowerCos)

Specialized firms, often called TowerCos, own, manage, and lease passive infrastructure to multiple operators . They act as neutral landlords, providing structurally sound, powered, and secure platforms for co-location. TowerCos handle site acquisition, construction, maintenance, and regulatory compliance, enabling operators to focus on their core services while benefiting from cost savings and faster network expansion .

Benefits of Tower Sharing

- **Cost Reduction:** Shared expenses for land, construction, and maintenance lower capital and operational costs .
- **Improved Coverage:** Co-locating equipment enhances network reach, particularly in underserved areas .
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Fewer towers reduce landscape disruption and energy consumption .
- **Faster Deployment:** Ready-to-use infrastructure accelerates the rollout of new technologies like 5G .
- **Market Competitiveness:** Smaller operators can enter markets more easily due to lower infrastructure costs .

Examples and Regulatory Context

In some countries, regulatory frameworks encourage or mandate infrastructure sharing. For instance, in France, operators are required to provide shared coverage in rural areas through initiatives like F-CONTACT, allowing multiple operators to use the same towers while maintaining service quality . Similar models exist globally, supported by both regulators and industry players to promote efficient and sustainable network growth.

Conclusion

Mobile communication sharing towers represent a strategic and sustainable approach to telecom infrastructure. By sharing passive components, operators reduce costs, expand coverage, and accelerate technology deployment, while TowerCos provide the expertise and management needed to maintain these shared assets efficiently . This collaborative model is increasingly central to modern mobile network strategy.

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