



POLICY IN ACTION

Iraq Facilitates 4G Rollout with Licence Extensions, Tech Neutrality

Market context

With over 40 million people, Iraq is an important and strategic market within the Middle East and North Africa region. The country's mobile sector provides more than 42 million mobile connections, including approximately 21 million high-speed (3G and 4G) connections serving by

Iraqi citizens and residents. Iraq has suffered through wars and unrest for much of the past two decades including the brief era of ISIS, during which time the central government lost control of around one-third of the country.

Policy or regulatory action

In 2020, Iraq's cabinet offered a five-year licence extension to incumbent operators and moved to make the current IMT bands tech-neutral, allowing MNOs to launch 4G

services. Licences now extend to 2030. This will contribute to the development of a digital economy and enhance the entire socio-economic development of the country.

Why this is good practice

With this decision, Iraq finally joined 239 other countries and territories worldwide that have elected to offer LTE licences or authorisations. Iraq's 4G-licensed mobile operators are now part of an ecosystem of about 810 operators globally providing mobile and/or fixed

wireless access services, supporting over 5.95 billion LTE subscriptions. The launch of LTE services in Iraq is an important step towards accelerating digital inclusion, supporting continuous education and facilitating home working.

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