

LTE NETWORK SHARING

Setting-up Effective Operational Level Agreements Between Partners

ABSTRACT

3GPP-based LTE integrates mandatory network sharing features on both the network-side and the device-side, making network sharing an option available day-one for carriers opting to deploy LTE. Shared network partners can substantially reduce both their CAPEX and OPEX costs while still competing on services, tariffs, and devices. Key carriers around the globe have already taken advantage of network sharing, many others are currently considering it, and some regulators are actively promoting it.

This presentation describes the network sharing options offered by the standard 3GPP features, as well as those offered by some non-standard commercial features, features that improve the business case of network sharing even further. It also outlines the key elements of a solid set of Operating Level Agreements (OLAs) between network sharing partners. Although outside the scope of standardization, those OLAs are mandatory to provide partners with a seamless and transparent management of the shared network among themselves. The presentation covers the key core management domains i.e. fault, performance, and inventory management, as well as capacity planning, vendor management, and other network management domains. The presentation gives a sense of the scope of work involved in setting-up those OLAs.

Participants to the workshop will get an understanding of the benefits and challenges offered by LTE so that they will be in the position to:

- Initiate key strategic activities that will lead to defining their optimal LTE network sharing strategy;
- Understand all areas of their business that will be affected by network sharing; and
- Initiate an educated dialog with equipment vendors and potential network sharing partners.