



# 5G and RF-EMF Exposure

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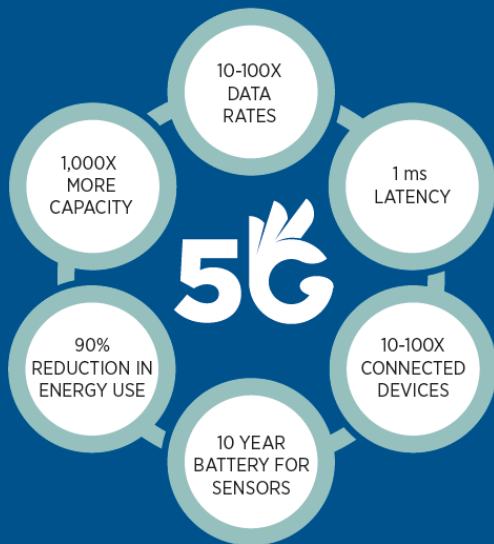
Senior Director Research & Sustainability

GSMA

ITU Arab Region, Amman, Jordan, 2-3 December 2019

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## 5G BENEFITS



### ULTRA-LOW POWER FOR INTERNET OF THINGS (IoT)



SMART CITIES



WEARABLES

### ENHANCED DATA RATES



SMART HOMES



AUGMENTED REALITY

### ULTRA-RELIABLE AND LOW-LATENCY



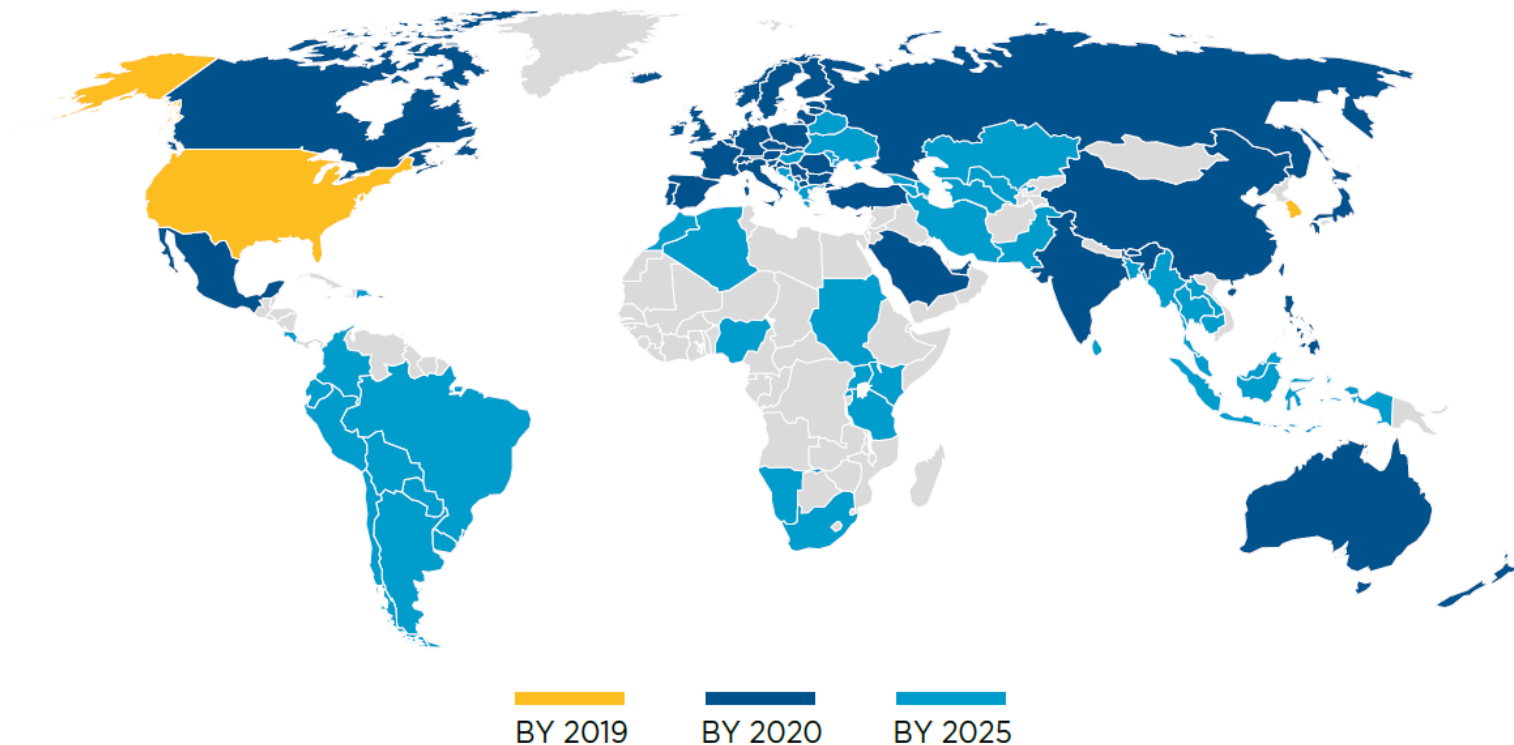
MANUFACTURING



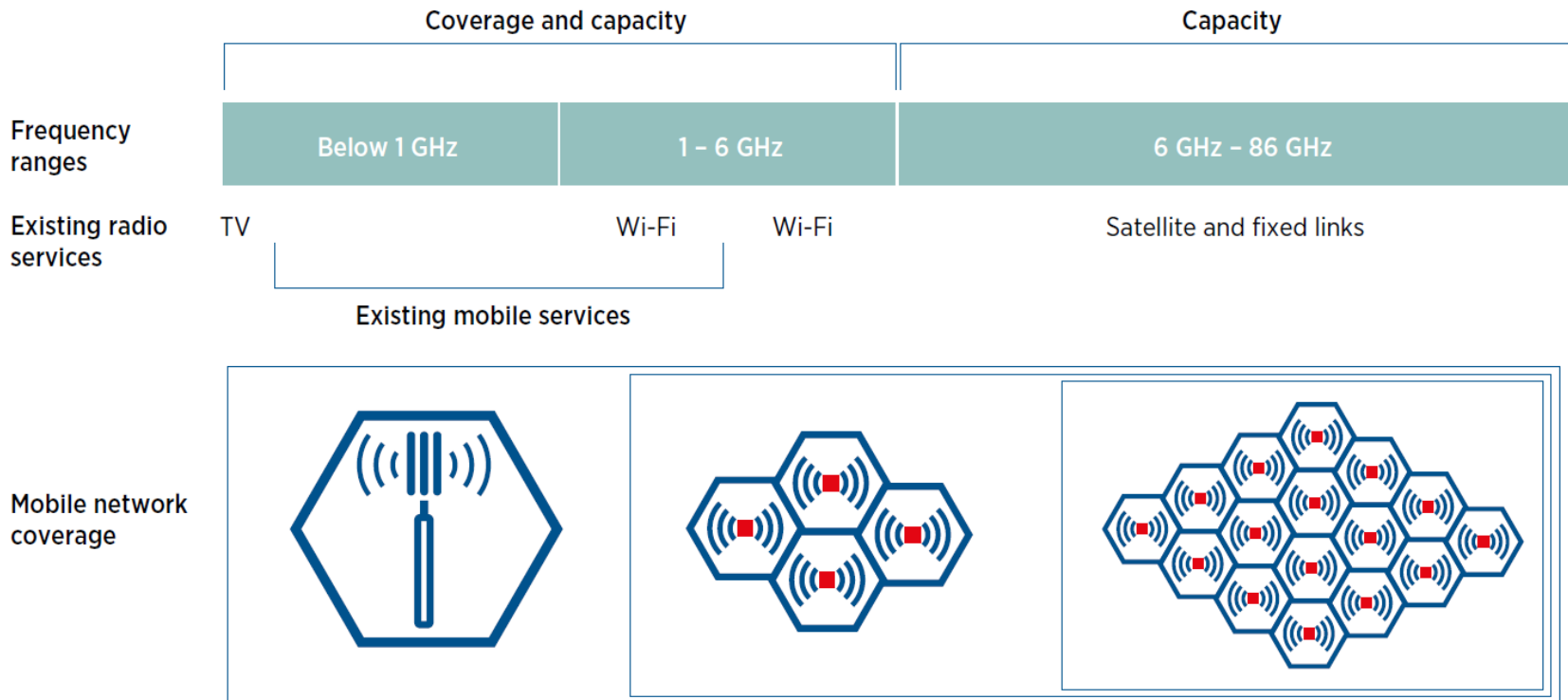
AUTOMOTIVE



# Projected plans for 5G launches per country (Source: GSMA Intelligence)



# 5G needs spectrum within three key frequency ranges



# Existing RF-EMF exposure limits apply to 5G



## Europe Union:

*'The strict and safe exposure limits for electromagnetic fields recommended at EU level apply for all frequency bands currently envisaged for 5G.'* (European Commission, 2017).



## Norway:

*'Measurements show that the total exposure from mobile and radio transmitters that we are exposed to today is weak and is far below the limits for what is harmful to health. We have no reason to believe that the introduction of 5G will change this.'* (DSA, 2019)



## United Kingdom:

*'...point-to-point microwave links and some other types of transmitters that have been present in the environment for many years. ICNIRP guidelines apply up to 300 GHz, well beyond the maximum (few tens of GHz) frequencies proposed for 5G.'* (PHE, 2019)



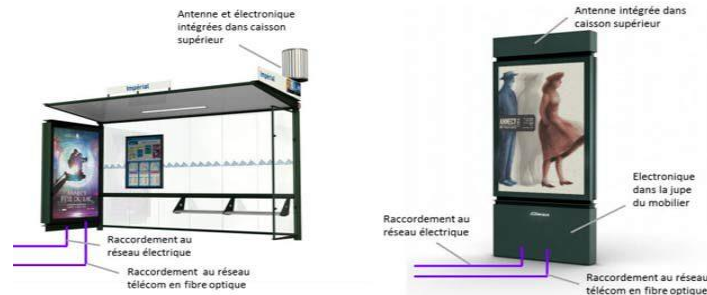
## Australia:

*'Although the 5G mobile phone network is new, limits set in safety standards, our understanding of the evidence of health effects and the need for more research have not changed.'* (ARPANSA, 2019)

# Small cell exposure levels similar to macro sites

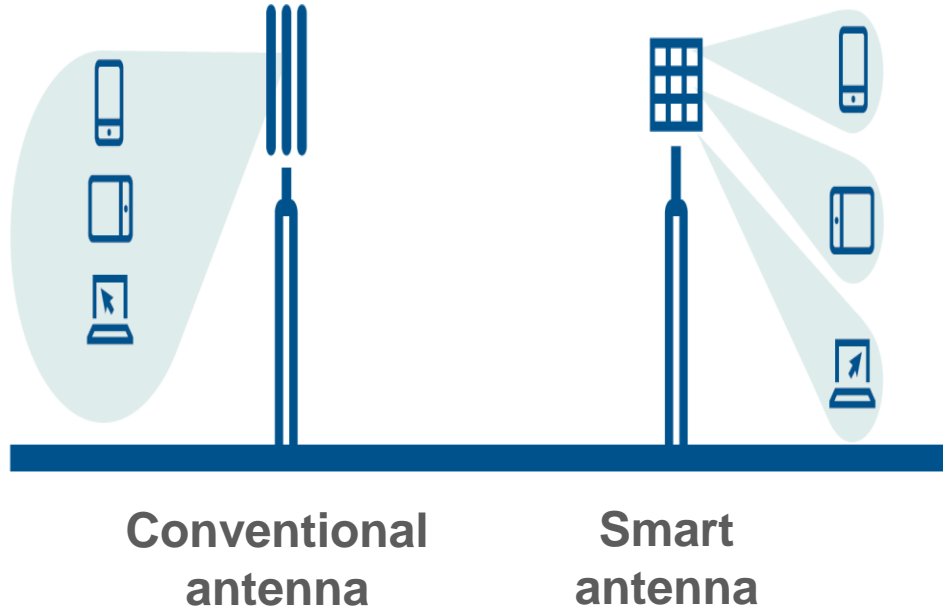
Final analysis (December 2018)  
showed that 4G small cells:

- Increased data rates, with uplink >20 Mb/s in 75% of cases and downlink >50 Mb/s in 50% of cases
- Reduced mobile phone output power at comparable data rates
- Exposure level was about the same as that of the “macro” network



Source: [ANFR, 2018](#)

# Increased deployment of smart antenna technologies



- Maintain high data throughput in more efficient ways
- Reduce network interference and electromagnetic energy in unintended directions
- More variability in space and time in the exposure levels

## 5G exposure levels similar to existing technologies

4G	Actuelle	Future	5G	Hypothèse basse	Hypothèse haute
Puissance maximale	60 W	160 W	Puissance	80 W	200 W
Gain maximal de l'antenne	18 dBi	18 dBi	Gain	24 dBi	24 dBi
Atténuation sur 6 minutes	- 4 dB	- 4 dB	Atténuation sur 6 minutes	- 13,5 dB	- 13,5 dB
Vitrage	- 2 dB	- 2 dB	Vitrage	- 2 dB	- 2 dB
			TDD	- 1,25 dB	- 1,25 dB
E estimé à 100 m	1,7 V/m	2,8 V/m	E estimé à 100 m	1,1 V/m	1,8 V/m

*Note: Estimated exposures at 100 m in the interior of a building.*

Source: [ANFR, 2019](#)

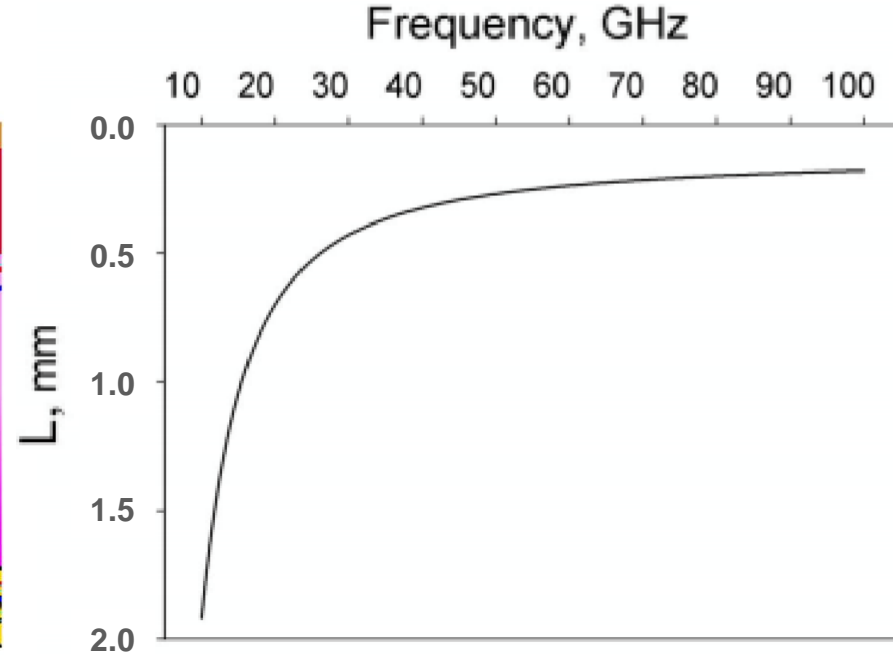
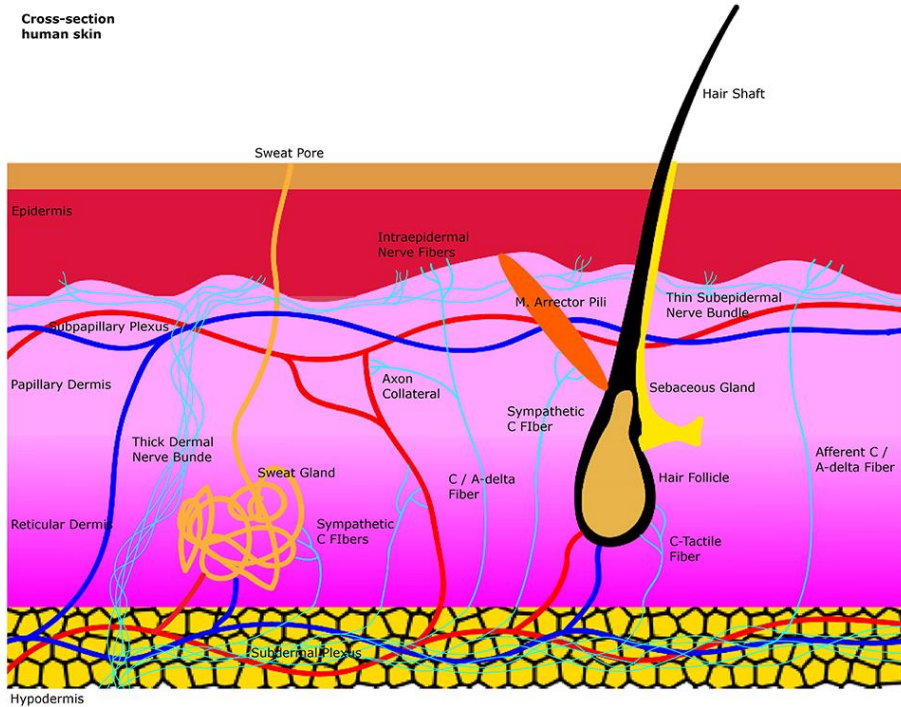


# Millimetre-waves are well studied

- Existing applications in communications, radar, security scanners, medical therapies (Eastern Europe), non-lethal crowd control.
  - Roughly 30 GHz to 100 GHz (in biological literature)
  - Significant body of western scientific literature, more in the former Soviet Union
- Main biological effects are skin and eye heating at levels of exposure above levels allowed by limits

# mmWaves mostly absorbed in outer skin layers

Cross-section  
human skin



© 2019 Glatte, Buchmann, Hijazi, Illigens and Siepmann

[Glatte et al, 2009](#)

# Active Denial Technology (1/2)

- Operates at 95 GHz
- Penetrates the skin to a depth equivalent to three sheets of paper
- Minimal risk of injury due to the shallow energy penetration and normal human instinctive reactions



**Active Denial System 2**  
*Official Department of Defense Image*

## Active Denial Technology (2/2)

- Exposures significantly higher than exposure guidelines
- Health risk assessment:
  - 15 years of studies
  - 13,000 exposures on volunteer subjects
  - No promotion or co-promotion of skin cancer in animal study
  - No effect on male or female reproduction



**Active Denial System 2**  
*Official Department of Defense Image*

## IEC Standard and Technical Report

- **IEC 62232:2017** Determination of RF field strength and SAR in the vicinity of radiocommunication base stations for the purpose of evaluating human exposure
- **IEC TR62269:2011/2019** Case studies supporting the implementation of IEC 62232 - determination of RF field strength, power density and SAR in the vicinity of radiocommunication base stations for the purpose of evaluating human exposure

# Actual maximum approach for accuracy

Example – massive MIMO @ 28 GHz (Macro)

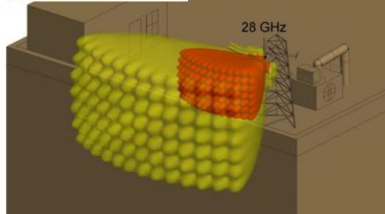


Perspective view

Exclusion Zone

General Public

Occupational



Array antenna with  $8 \times 8$  elements

$f = 28 \text{ GHz}$

$60^\circ$  horizontal scan range

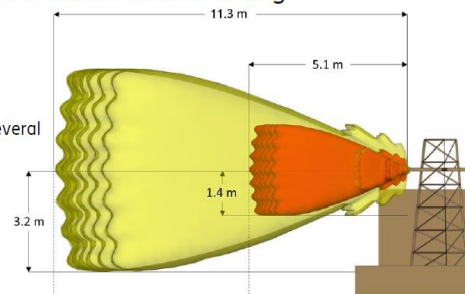
$15^\circ$  vertical scan range

$EIRP_{\max} = 72 \text{ dBm}$

Without considering the effect of beamforming

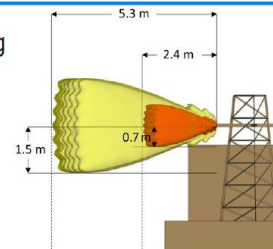
All transmitted power assumed directed in the same beam for several minutes

Process repeated for all beams



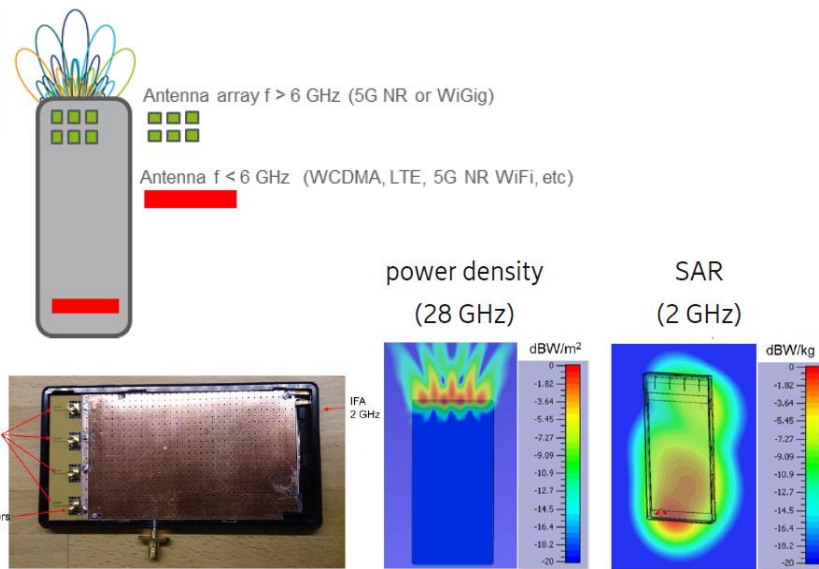
Considering the effect of beamforming

Distribute the power per beam to obtain statically conservative compliance boundaries



# Assessing compliance of devices above 6 GHz

- Multiple antennas above and below 6 GHz
- Basic restriction changes from SAR to power density
- Need to measure power density very close to a device



Colombi, pre-BIOEM2018 Workshop



# GSMA - 5G EMF Information



5G, the Internet of Things (IoT) and Wearable Devices

**What do the new uses of wireless technologies mean for radio frequency exposure?**

September 2017



Source: [GSMA, 2019](#)



## Multiple languages

### Safety of 5G Mobile Networks

5G is the next generation of mobile technology that will transform the role of mobile connectivity in society, enabling changes in the way we live and do business. The radio signals used for 5G are similar to those used by current technologies and are covered by the same international safety guidelines that protect all members of the public and the environment.

#### 5G is an evolutionary mobile technology that supports many new capabilities

5G is the next generation of mobile technology. It is designed to support new applications through digital data rates, low latency and high reliability. It will also provide efficient support for large numbers of connections, enabling the Internet of Things (IoT). 5G will deliver smarter and more convenient living and working. Initial 5G networks launched in 2018 and 5G connections will grow to around 15% of global connections by 2025.

#### 5G is covered by existing international safety guidelines

The radio signals used by mobile technologies have been extensively studied for decades. This scientific evidence is the basis for the international safety guidelines for radio signals. These guidelines include all the frequencies under consideration for 5G.

The consistent conclusion of public health agencies and expert groups is that compliance with the international guidelines is protective for all persons (including children) against all established health risks.

#### Public health agencies confirm no health risks expected from 5G

**Australia:**  
"Although the 5G mobile phone network is new, limits set in safety standards, our understanding of the evidence of health effects and the need for more research have not changed." (ASPI/ANGA, 2019)

**Europe Union:**  
"The strict and safe exposure limits for electromagnetic fields recommended at EU level apply for all frequency bands currently envisaged for 5G." (European Commission, 2017).

**Norway:**  
"Measurements show that the total exposure from mobile and radio transmitters that we are exposed to today is weak and is far below the limits for what is harmful to health. We have no reason to believe that the introduction of 5G will change this." (DSA, 2019)

Many initial 5G deployments will be at frequencies similar to 3G/4G mobile networks and Wi-Fi. This also means that many existing antennas sites can be reused for 5G.

To achieve higher capacity 5G can also use frequencies that are today used for fixed radio links. These frequencies are known as millimetre-waves (mmW or mmWaves) and they are covered by the safety guidelines.

The same limit values that protect people also protect the environment. The responsible German government agency<sup>1</sup> says that there is no scientifically reliable evidence of a risk to animals and plants exposed to radio signals at levels below limits in the international guidelines.

Source: [GSMA, 2019](#)

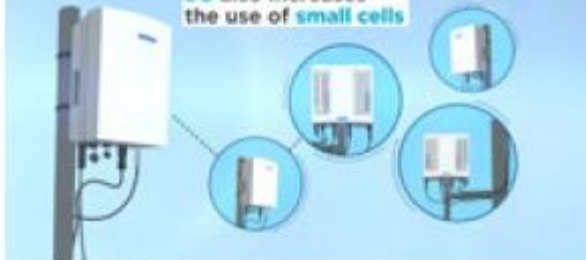
(Continued on reverse)

## Animation

### What safety rules apply for 5G?



### 5G also increases the use of small cells



Source: [GSMA, 2019](#)





# ITU - 5G EMF Information



## ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION  
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR  
OF ITU

### Series K Supplement 9 (11/2017)

SERIES K: PROTECTION AGAINST INTERFERENCE

5G technology and human exposure to RF EMF



## ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION  
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR  
OF ITU

### Series K Supplement 14 (05/2018)

SERIES K: PROTECTION AGAINST INTERFERENCE

The impact of RF-EMF exposure limits stricter than the ICNIRP or IEEE guidelines on 4G and 5G mobile network deployment



## ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION  
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR  
OF ITU

### Series K Supplement 16 (09/2018)

SERIES K: PROTECTION AGAINST INTERFERENCE

Electromagnetic field compliance assessments for 5G wireless networks

- Updates to ITU EMF Guide



# Changing media narrative on 5G and EMF

July 2018



July 2019





# Conclusions

- International RF-EMF limits cover the frequencies and modulations relevant to 5G and health agencies say that no health hazards are expected at levels below the limits
- 5G assessments show levels similar to 4G meaning that overall exposures will not change by much, remaining a small fraction of the limit values
- mmWave frequencies are used today by the mobile and satellite industries, they have been extensively researched and are covered by the international safety guidelines



# Thanks for listening

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<http://www.gsma.com/emf>

