Rakuten Mobile's initiatives for Beyond 5G

February 2024 Ryoji Osaka Rakuten Mobile, Inc.



Noto Peninsula Earthquake



*Disturbances in partner network areas are not reflected on this map.

Recovery activities: Free charging service

Global initiatives for Beyond 5G

Rakuten Mobile

Fully Virtualized Cloud Native Mobile Network

Fully virtualized network for scalable network configuration



Fully virtualized and cloud native

Features and Benefits of Virtualization

Software running on general purpose hardware through virtualization



Fully virtualized and cloud native

Further intelligence of Open RAN

Aiming for a high-efficiency network in the beyond 5G era

- Frequency Band utilization efficiency
- Enhancements to Security
- Energy Efficiency



RIC (RAN Intelligent Controller)



Technology with intelligence that leverages AI/ML to efficiently control multi-vendor RAN equipment in Open RAN

R&D for Open RAN and RIC (NICT)

In January 2023, Rakuten Mobile was selected for a Beyond 5G R&D Promotion Project by NICT*

R&D of Open RAN Wireless Communication Technologies to Realize Advanced RAN Infrastructure Beyond 5G

Aiming to achieve high-efficiency networks through RIC (RAN Intelligent Controller)



O-RAN integration platform technology (NEDO)

Selected by NEDO for the "R&D Project of Enhanced Infrastructures for Post-5G Information and Communication Systems" and launched activities from 2023

Promoting O-RAN through the realization of automated Open RAN quality assurance and acceleration of O-RAN certification

Development of an Open RAN automated quality assurance system for the global <u>market</u>



Building an automated quality assurance system in an environment compliant with O-RAN ALLIANCE specifications Improvement of O-RAN certification environment through the implementation of Field PoC



Improving the quality of O-RAN certification through the reproduction of traffic data obtained through Field PoCs in a lab environment



Japan OTIC issues O-RAN End-to-End Badge

In January 2024 Japan OTIC issued the world's 1st End to End Badge for Non-stand Alone (NSA) equipment

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January 12, 2024 Japan OTIC

Press Release

Japan OTIC issues O-RAN End-to-End Badge

- Facilitating the adoption of Open RAN networks that comply with the O-RAN specifications by multiple vendors -

Japan OTIC (*1) has issued an O-RAN E2E Badge (*3) that certifies compliance of a combination of 5G base station equipment from different vendors with O-RAN End-to-End (E2E) specifications established by O-RAN ALLIANCE (*2), an international Open RAN standards promotion organization. This is the world's first E2E Badge for the Non Stand Alone (NSA) system, which links 5G base stations to the 4G core network (*4).

Certification and Badging by Japan OTIC is expected to expand adoption and entry opportunities for equipment vendors, and enhance functions and shorten development and introduction periods for communications services, thereby contributing to the realization of a more open, more reliable, and more secure 5G communication society not only in Japan but also globally.

Outline of the O-RAN E2E Badge

Japan STIC

Certification/ Badge Type; Certification/ Badge ID	Radio Access Technology under test	Device under test	Vendor name	Model name
E2E Badge; JPOT240001	5G NR	O-RU	NEC Corporation	MB5420-m5770
	5G NR	O-DU	SW: Rakuten	BareBone S5I 2U
	5G NR	O-CU	Symphony / HW:	BareBone D52BQ 2U
	4G LTE	O-eNB OF	Quanta Cloud	BareBone D52BE 2U
	4G LTE	O-eNB CU	Technology	BareBone D52BE 2U

R&D into mobile communications using low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites with AST SpaceMobile



Network architecture

The technology enables direct communication between everyday unmodified smartphones and the satellite



PoC with Blue Walker 3



Rakuten Group CEO Mickey Mikitani successfully exchanged a voice call with AST SpaceMobile CEO Abel Avellan and AST personnel at a Hawaii test site



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0D4G5CKK9s

Advancing technologies for the Beyond 5G era

Rakuten Mobile

Rakuten Symphony

