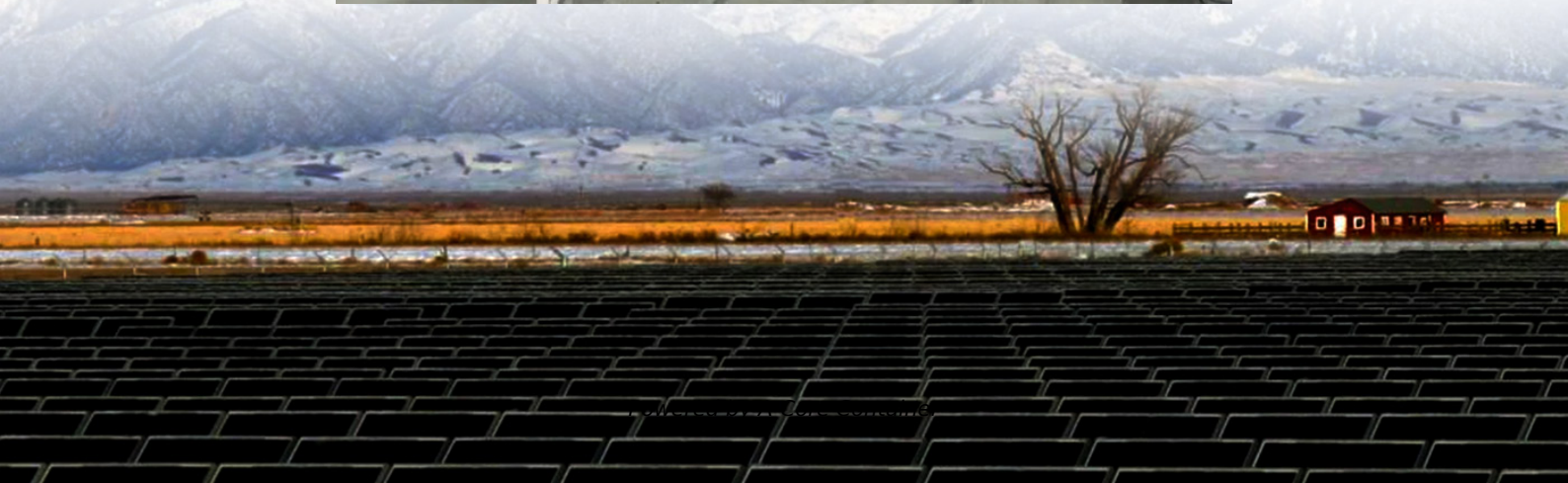# 5G base station power consumption is several times that of 4G

## Overview

Are 5G base stations causing more energy consumption?

However, Li says 5G base stations are carrying five times the traffic as when equipped with only 4G, pushing up power consumption. The carrier is seeking subsidies from the Chinese government to help with the increased energy usage.

How much power does a 5G base station use?

"A 5G base station is generally expected to consume roughly three times as much power as a 4G base station. And more 5G base stations are needed to cover the same area," -IEEE Spectrum, 5G's Waveform Is a Battery Vampire.

Does China Mobile have a 5G base station?

China Mobile has tried using lower cost deployments of MIMO antennas, specifically 32T32R and sometimes 8T8R rather than 64T64R, according to MTN. However, Li says 5G base stations are carrying five times the traffic as when equipped with only 4G, pushing up power consumption.

How will 5G affect the energy consumption of mobile operators?

Edge compute facilities needed to support local processing and new internet of things (IoT) services will also add to overall network power usage. Exact estimates differ by source, but MTN says the industry consensus is that 5G will double to triple energy consumption for mobile operators, once networks scale.

Will 5G consume a lot of energy?

"A lurking threat behind the promise of 5G delivering up to 1,000 times as much data as today's networks is that 5G could also consume up to 1,000 times as much energy," Dexter Johnson in the IEEE Spectrum. Why?

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How much energy does a 5G small cell BS consume?

Simulation results reveal that more than 50% of the energy is consumed by the computation power at 5G small cell BS's. Moreover, the computation power of 5G small cell BS can approach 800 watt when the massive MIMO (e.g., 128 antennas) is deployed to transmit high volume traffic.

# 5G base station power consumption is several times that of 4G

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