

A-Core Container

China's 5G base station electricity consumption ranking



Overview

How much power does a 5G station use?

The power consumption of a single 5G station is 2.5 to 3.5 times higher than that of a single 4G station. The main factor behind this increase in 5G power consumption is the high power usage of the active antenna unit (AAU). Under a full workload, a single station uses nearly 3700W.

How much electricity does China use per base station?

For China, based on a single base station power's energy consumption of 11.5 KWh (Huawei, 2019), we estimate that the electricity consumed by its 5G network by 2030 will be 6.04×10^5 GW for 6 million base stations, the equivalents of 8.4 % of China's national total power generation in 2019, respectively.

Is 5G more energy efficient than 4G?

Although the absolute value of the power consumption of 5G base stations is increasing, their energy efficiency ratio is much lower than that of 4G stations. In other words, with the same power consumption, the network capacity of 5G will be as dozens of times larger than 4G, so the power consumption per bit is sharply reduced.

How much electricity will China's 5G network consume in 2030?

Under the scenario of business-estimated six million base stations in 2030, the share of electricity consumed by China's 5G networks in 2030 could reach 8.4 % of the national total power generation, causing 0.44 GtCO₂ /yr CO₂ emissions.

How does mobile data traffic affect the energy consumption of 5G base stations?

The explosive growth of mobile data traffic has resulted in a significant increase in the energy consumption of 5G base stations (BSs).

How many 5G base stations are there in China?

2027 master plan – a second ‘Set Sail’ 5G expansion plan aims for 85% 5G penetration and 75% of network traffic on 5G. The total number of 5G base stations in China reached 4.486 million as of the end of May (2025), according to data released by the country’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT).

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