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## Research Dossier: Etisalat UAE



### Country

United Arab Emirates

### Company Name

Emirates Telecom Corp

### Ownership Type

Publicly Traded Company  
State/Government Owned

### Ownership/Controlling Entity

Etisalat

### Website

<http://www.etisalat.ae/>

### MNC

02

### Overview

Etisalat (اتصالات) is the largest mobile carrier operating in the United Arab Emirates. The company was founded in 1976 as the Emirates Telecommunications Corporation (مؤسسة الإمارات للاتصالات), initially formed as a joint stock company but later nationalised with the UAE government holding a 60% stake, and public ownership 40%. Today the company is an international blue-chip organisation, Etisalat Group provides innovative solutions and services to 162 million subscribers in 16 countries across the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

The company provides 2G GSM services over the 900 MHz band and 3G UMTS over B1 (2100 MHz) since April 2006. The 3G network was upgraded to HSPA+ in January 2010 and again to DC-HSPA+ in September 2011. 3C-HSPA+ was tested but not implemented.

In September 2011 Etisalat launched its first 4G LTE services over the B3 (1800 MHz) and B7 (2600 MHz) bands. 300 Mbps Cat 6 LTE-A was activated in September 2014 by carrier aggregation of its standard B3 (1800 MHz) with a new B20 (800 MHz) carrier. The company went on to launch 3C LTE-A in October 2015, aggregating all three carriers together to provide a network capable of peak data rates in excess of 700 Mbps.

Etisalat has also deployed LTE TDD using B42 (3500 MHz) supporting fixed wireless services around the UAE.

The 1 Gbps threshold was broken in July 2016 through aggregation of five carriers (5CC) and use of 4X4 MIMO, and 256QAM. The company has also demonstrated successful LTE-LAA, achieving 430 Mbps via 3CC, with 2CC aggregation in the 5 GHz unlicensed band.

## Etisalat 5G Strategy

During 5G live testing conducted in October 2016 the company achieved 36 Gbps, only to be exceeded in its October 2017 tests when Etisalat achieved a record 71 Gbps through utilisation of a 2 GHz channel in the E-band (60 to 90 GHz). In partnership with Ericsson, the company demonstrated 5G mobility in May 2017, achieving 24 Gbps through utilisation of an 800 MHz channel in the 15 GHz band.

Etisalat launched its 5G network in May 2018 which provided fixed wireless broadband services at speeds of 1.5 Gbps. In November 2018 UAE's Telecommunications Regulatory Authority officially confirmed that it had allocated 100 MHz of spectrum in the 3.3 to 3.8 GHz range to Etisalat for 5G services.

## IoT Strategy

Etisalat began testing NB-IoT (LTE Cat-NB1) and eMTC (LTE Cat-M1) in 2016, and commercially launched the services in July 2017.

### ▼ 3G UMTS Network Information

Details on UMTS network deployments are shown below. Data are often incomplete due to commercial nature. Consult dossier text for further details.

Launch Date 2006-04      Status      Active

#### UMTS Band    Packet Data    Status

[B1 \(2100 MHz\)](#)      [DC-HSPA+](#)      Active

### ▼ 4G LTE Network Information

Details on LTE network deployments are shown below. Data are often incomplete due to commercial nature. Consult dossier text for further details.

Evolution	<a href="#">LTE Advanced Pro (LTE-A Pro)</a>	Status	Active [Launched 2011-09]
Max. MIMO	<a href="#">4x4 MIMO</a>	Max. Modulation	<a href="#">256QAM</a>
Carrier Aggregation	<a href="#">CA_3A-20A (B3+B20)</a> <a href="#">CA_3A-7A-20A (B3+B7+B20)</a>	Features	<a href="#">LTE-M</a> <a href="#">VoLTE</a>

#### LTE Band    Channel Width    Status

<a href="#">B3 (1800 MHz)</a>	20 MHz	Active
<a href="#">B7 (2600 MHz)</a>	20 MHz	Active
<a href="#">B20 (800 MHz)</a>	20 MHz	Active
<a href="#">B42 (3500 MHz)</a>	No Data	Active

### ▼ 5G NR Network Information

Details on 5G NR network deployments are shown below. Data are often incomplete due to commercial nature. Consult dossier text for further details.

Type	<a href="#">NR (Standard)</a>	Status	Active [Launched 2018-05-14]
Max. MIMO	<a href="#">Massive MIMO</a>	Max. Modulation	<a href="#">256QAM</a>
Carrier Aggregation	-	Features	-

#### NR Band    Channel Width    Status

<a href="#">n78 (5500 MHz)</a>	100 MHz	Active
<b>NR Band</b>	<b>Channel Width</b>	<b>Status</b>
▼ IoT Network - NB-IoT (LTE Cat-NB1)		
Technology	<a href="#">NB-IoT (LTE Cat-NB1)</a>	Status Active
Band	<a href="#">B20 (800 MHz)</a>	Launch Date 2017-07
▼ IoT Network - eMTC (LTE Cat-M1)		
Technology	<a href="#">eMTC (LTE Cat-M1)</a>	Status Active
Band	<a href="#">B20 (800 MHz)</a>	Launch Date 2017-07

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