

Research Dossier: Robi

Country

Bangladesh

Company Name

Robi Axiata Limited

Ownership Type

Joint Venture

Ownership/Controlling Entity

Axiata Group

Bharti Airtel

NTT DOCOMO

Website

<https://www.robi.com.bd>

MNC

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Company Overview

Robi Axiata Limited is the second largest mobile phone operator of Bangladesh and the first operator to introduce 2G and 3G services in the country. The company commenced operation in 1997 as Telekom Malaysia International (Bangladesh) with the brand name 'Aktef'. In 2010 the company was rebranded to 'Robi' and the company changed its name to Robi Axiata Limited.

In November 2016 mobile carriers Robi Axiata and Airtel Bangladesh completed a merger, initiated as a joint venture between Axiata Group Berhad, of Malaysia, Bharti Airtel Limited, of India and NTT DoCoMo Inc., of Japan. The resulting company emerged as the second largest mobile phone operator in Bangladesh with approximately over 32 million active subscribers. The merged company has the widest network coverage to 99% of the population.

The company operates 2G GSM services over 900 and 1800 MHz bands, and 3G (marketed as 3.5G) on B1 (2100 MHz). Robi has been trialling 4G LTE services over B3 (1800 MHz) and B1 (2100 MHz) however has been improving its fibre backbone before expecting to switch on in late 2017. After receiving being granted a tech neutrality licence for its existing 900 and 1800 MHz spectrum holdings by regulator BTRC, Robi launched 4G LTE over B3 (1800 MHz) in February 2018.

After completing trials with Ericsson in April 2018, Robi activated LTE-A using 2C CA_1A-3A aggregation of two 5 MHz carriers (B1+B3).

Robi 5G

Together with technology partner Huawei, Robi demonstrated 5G technology in July 2018, showcasing its intention to launch a 5G network in Bangladesh.

▼ 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	2013-10	Status	Active
UMTS Band	Packet Data	Status	
B1 (2100 MHz)	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	LTE Advanced (LTE-A)	Status	Active [Launched 2018-02]
Max. MIMO	2x2 MIMO	Max. Modulation	64QAM
Carrier Aggregation	CA_1A-3A (B1+B3)	Features	-
LTE Band	Channel Width	Status	
B1 (2100 MHz)	5 MHz	Active	
B3 (1800 MHz)	5 MHz	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	NR (Standard)	Status	Planned
Max. MIMO	-	Max. Modulation	-
Carrier Aggregation	-	Features	-
NR Band	Channel Width	Status	

Services Available

Field Technical Services

As specialists in 3G, 4G, and 5G cellular technologies, our R-Spectrum team provides in-country technical services to most regions around the world. Operating on a contract basis we are often sent to remote and isolated regions to assist companies in establishing voice and data communications.

RF Coverage Modelling & Planning

Through our R-Spectrum team, we help our clients visualise and understand mobile signal issues by offering a range of radio frequency modelling services for 2G GSM, 3G UMTS, 4G LTE, and 5G NR cellular technologies. The first step to solving any problem is to understand the problem.

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