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The Asia Open RAN Academy

A MNO's Perspective: ORAN is 'The Way Forward' **April 2023**

A common theme during discussions with MNOs at MWC by AORA representatives was for an 'Open RAN takeover' in 5G sooner rather than later. Dish Network's CTO is convinced that 5G networks will ultimately adopt Open RAN. As an expert in the field, he joined DISH ten years ago and worked as the Chief Architect for [launching Open RAN](#) networks to 20% of the US population in 2022. *"We have witnessed the real-world challenges that can hinder deployment and met them head-on, achieving our 2022 build-out milestones. Dish has seen first-hand how open RAN virtualization enables the deployment of new technology to accommodate and incorporate innovation, facilitating swift network updates."*

With the [Biden administrations USD\\$1.5 billion](#) investment set aside to support the promotion and deployment of open radio access network technology in the US, Dish has specific ideas on how investments should be made to diversify the network systems not only in the United States but globally as well. *"With this focus [security and system integration], the US can lead the way through targeted investments in projects that bolster operators' confidence in open RAN products/systems and streamline open RAN adoption/use, lower barriers to entry for open RAN vendors and facilitate scalable interoperability, train professionals needed to support open RAN networks, and materially advance key technologies to support open RAN deployments and operations."*

With plans to spend up to USD\$10 billion by 2025 on its 5G Open RAN network, which is reported as significantly less than legacy network costs, the company is also set to add 1,000 new sites per month to its existing 15,000 towers under construction or on air to meet its 2023 deployment commitments. For greenfield scenarios, the initial driver is lower costs, but an equally high priority is the ability to instantaneously reconfigure the network as needed. In addition, from 5G onwards, everything will be cloud-based, resulting in a programmable and dynamic network in which automation is the key differentiator. Dish is confident these are the feature that will give them a significant competitive advantage.

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