

CASE STUDY

Bharti Airtel Managing large scale rollout during the pandemic

NOKIA



Bharti Airtel

Headquartered in India, Airtel is a global communications solutions provider with over 471 mn customers in 18 countries across South Asia and Africa. The company ranks amongst the top three mobile operators globally and its networks cover over two billion people. Airtel is India's largest integrated communications solutions provider and the second largest mobile operator in Africa. Airtel's retail portfolio includes high speed 4G/4.5G mobile broadband, Airtel Xstream Fiber that promises speeds up to

1 Gbps with convergence across linear and on-demand entertainment, streaming services spanning music and video, digital payments and financial services. For enterprise customers, Airtel offers a gamut of solutions that includes secure connectivity, cloud and data centre services, cyber security, IoT, Ad Tech and cloud based communication. For more details visit www.airtel.com

Bharti Airtel is seeing a massive uptake towards data, led by high speed data services, though voice continues to grow in under-served areas in rural India. As smartphones are becoming more affordable, the uptake of data services is increasing. The operator's digital efforts are about improving customer experience and customer value with the introduction of digital tools through digital transformation. This approach is consistent across both the consumer and enterprise customer segments that it serves.

To address this demand, Bharti Airtel is aggressively expanding its LTE coverage and capacity, and enhancing its 2G capacity with spectral efficient features in its radio access network to serve existing and future demand. The challenges for network deployments,

however, arise from this high-volume rollout with stringent timelines with additional constraint of crew allowed in limited number at site for implementation during the current pandemic. Additionally, multi-layer, multi-vendor, multi-technology network expansion and modernization requires the right strategies for efficient rollout to minimize downtime risks.

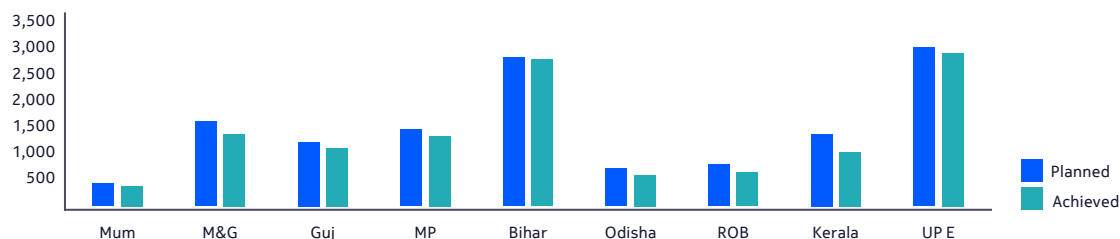
The network deployment, therefore, needs to be agile and efficient to fulfil the business and operational needs of Bharti Airtel. In this regard, Nokia's deployment services have been at the forefront with in these challenging times.



Nokia digital deployment services uses automated service delivery platform which strengthens its project management capabilities to guarantee right process and qualified crew at the right time and place for efficient site deployment. Nokia's harmonized deployment processes part of these delivery platform span across project workflow orchestration and cover the entire deployment lifecycle - planning, surveys, design, logistics, acquisition, implementation, integration, and site acceptance.

For the ongoing network expansion for Bharti Airtel, Nokia used project co-ordination and control leveraging automation in its service deliveries. Also, with near real-time updates and reporting on project status, feeding information to stakeholders to resolve issues even at the field level enables the stakeholders to make timely decision. Due to ongoing pandemic and subsequent difficulties in accessing sites, remote collaboration ensured that the sites were on air as per the project schedule. By end of September 2020, owing to ease in restrictions, the sites on air rose up to 12,000+.

Monthly deployments



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Appreciating Nokia Deployment efforts, Atul Sachdeva, Head Network Planning & Deployment, Bharti Airtel said

Our association with Nokia has helped us deploy a superior network for our customers. With its end to end expertise & streamlined processes in network deployments, Nokia has ensured timely rollouts with quality and managed the entire program efficiently.

Nokia plans to bring advanced automation in deployments for efficient and higher-quality services delivery and hold greater promise & commitment to Bharti Airtel in rolling out network faster.

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At Nokia, we create technology that helps the world act together.

As a B2B technology innovation leader, we are pioneering the future where networks meet cloud to realize the full potential of digital in every industry.

Through networks that sense, think and act, we work with our customers and partners to create the digital services and applications of the future.

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