

After Bharti, RCom, and Viom, Reliance Jio to lease towers from BSNL; to launch 4G with the largest network of 300,000 towers

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Incumbent operators Bharti Airtel, Vodafone and Idea cellular have reasons to worry. Reliance Jio is set to launch its 4G services with the largest network of 300,000 towers, thanks to its strategy of going for infrastructure sharing.

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It will also deploy around 50,000 ultra-low cost base stations to roll out its 4G services.

Sources told TelecomTiger that the company is also likely to sign agreement with the government-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) for leasing its 62,000 towers. The PSU is waiting for the cabinet nod for allowing it to share its towers with private players.



If one adds all of them, then the number of towers comes out to be 300,000!

RCOM	45,000
Bharti Infratel	36,000
Bharti Airtel	46,000
Viom Network	42,000
Reliance Jio	50,000
BSNL	62,000

Reliance Jio will be leading the pack in terms of its size of network. India's largest telecom player Bharti Airtel (combined with Indus and Bharti Infratel) has about 135,000 towers; whereas Vodafone has around 125,000 towers.

Reliance Jio is presently doing trials of its 4G network in Delhi, Mumbai and Jamnagar of Gujarat. Once the trial is completed Reliance Jio is likely to offer services somewhere in September 2014. Reliance has both 2300 and 1800 Mhz spectrum to roll out services.

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