



'Refarming' 2100 MHz 3G

The amount of data transmitted over the mobile network is rising rapidly. Apps, photos, videos and networked devices in particular all contribute to this. The increase in data volume requires ongoing adjustments and modernisation of the existing mobile network to ensure that customers can always be provided with the required capacity. In view of this, the 2100 MHz frequency currently used for 3G (UMTS, HSPA, HSPA+), will be used for newer technologies in the future, in a process known as 'refarming'.

Implications

Most devices support multiple 3G frequency bands and will divert automatically to the 900 MHz frequency that is prevalent in Europe, and then continue to function without any problem. If the device only supports the 2100 MHz frequency and no other 3G frequency, then most devices will automatically switch to 2G. Please note in this case that 2G will only be supported until the end of 2020. These devices would therefore have to be modernised by the end of 2020.

3G coverage

There will continue to be excellent 3G network coverage even after the refarming. As is currently the case with 2G, the 900 MHz frequency has good building penetration. Nevertheless, there may be some variations in signal strength. In problem areas, such as basements for example, an antenna extension can usually help guarantee signal reception.

Device groups

M2M applications

What will continue as before?

Most wireless modules will automatically continue to work on 2G. Since many traditional M2M applications only need low data rates, the low data rates of 2G should also be sufficient for these applications. Please note, however, that 2G will only be supported until the end of 2020.

Negative effects

Noticeable limitations may be experienced with broadband or time-critical data applications, impacting proper function of the application. Customers should check this as soon as possible.

Recommendation

Swisscom recommends the use of widely available 4G modules. Swisscom's 4G network already has very high coverage today and offers much faster transmission rates than 3G.

For modules affected by 3G refarming, you should check whether the application is able to run properly with the lower 2G data rate. Since 2G is only supported until the end of 2020, a timely transition to 4G is recommended.

Next steps

Analyse your 3G devices and check the manufacturers' technical factsheets. The application supplier will also be able to advise you further. Upon request, Swisscom can check and advise which module ID your applications use to log in to our network. Please call the hotline.

People running 50 or more IoT devices can also digitise entire processes. Swisscom's IoT Connectivity Management platform and associated IoT SIM cards offer these customers a wide range of solutions. For more information, visit www.swisscom.ch/iot

Contact for hotline

Residential customers: 0800 800 800

SME: 0800 055 055

Enterprise customers: 0800 444 404

More information about the 2G phase-out:
www.swisscom.ch/2g