

SolarInnovate Energy Solutions

How to power 5G base stations in Uruguay



Overview

What is a 5G base station?

A 5G base station is mainly composed of the baseband unit (BBU) and the AAU — in 4G terms, the AAU is the remote radio unit (RRU) plus antenna. The role of the BBU is to handle baseband digital signal processing, while the AAU converts the baseband digital signal into an analog signal, and then modulates it into a high-frequency radio signal.

How much power does a 5G station use?

The power consumption of a single 5G station is 2.5 to 3.5 times higher than that of a single 4G station. The main factor behind this increase in 5G power consumption is the high power usage of the active antenna unit (AAU). Under a full workload, a single station uses nearly 3700W.

Is 5G more energy efficient than 4G?

Although the absolute value of the power consumption of 5G base stations is increasing, their energy efficiency ratio is much lower than that of 4G stations. In other words, with the same power consumption, the network capacity of 5G will be as dozens of times larger than 4G, so the power consumption per bit is sharply reduced.

Why does 5G use so much power?

The main factor behind this increase in 5G power consumption is the high power usage of the active antenna unit (AAU). Under a full workload, a single station uses nearly 3700W. This necessitates a number of updates to existing networks, such as more powerful supplies and increased performance output from supporting facilities.

How many HD movies can a 5G base station download?

Studies show that with 5G base stations, it is possible to download more than 5,000 HD movies using only 1 kWh, whereas with 4G, the same amount of

power would allow for fewer than 200 movies to be downloaded.

How will 5G be used in the future?

Reprinted, with permission, from ref. In the foreseeable future, 5G networks will be deployed rapidly around the world, in cope with the ever-increasing bandwidth demand in mobile network, emerging low-latency mobile services and potential billions of connections to IoT devices at the network edge .

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