

# EJL Wireless Research Reports Global Macrocell BTS Antenna Shipments Down in 2016

*Macrocell BTS antenna shipments dropped 15% while revenues dropped 5% in 2016; Passive antenna shipments shifting to higher port count; 5G massive MIMO in 2018*

SALEM, NH, UNITED STATES, December 19, 2017 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Global macrocell BTS antenna shipments dropped by 15% in 2016 as the slowdown in China and slower CAPEX spending impacted investments in coverage and capacity mobile network upgrades, according to the latest report from EJL Wireless Research titled "Global Macrocell BTS Antenna Market Analysis and Forecast, 2017-2021 9th Edition." "The continued decline of shipments in the TDD market, coupled with softness in FDD products that was impacted by demand weakness and the shift to higher port count products, resulted in the overall market decline. Revenues were down 5% due to the mix shift towards higher port count products, offsetting the drop in shipments of legacy lower priced 2-port and 4-port antennas," says founder and President, Earl Lum. EJL Wireless Research is forecasting that the macrocell BTS antenna market will see a recovery with 11% growth in shipments during 2017 due to a temporary demand increase in China for NB-IoT networks and sight growth in India, offsetting weakness in North America and Europe.

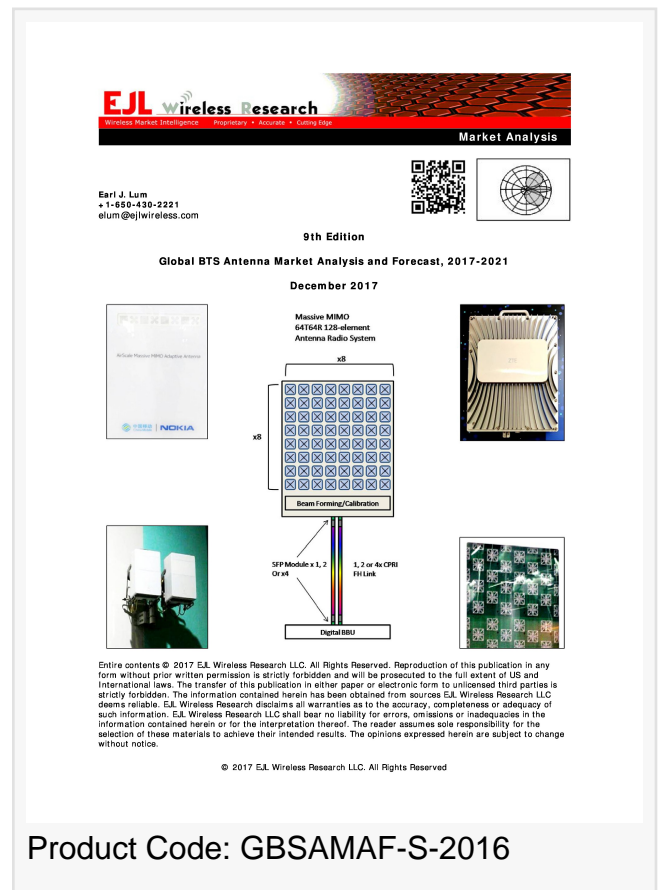
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Passive antennas are shifting to higher port count solutions while the ROI for current MM-ARS solutions for LTE-Advanced Pro services remain unconvincing.”

*Earl Lum, President, EJL Wireless Research*

EJL Wireless Research estimates that the Top 3 macrocell BTS antenna suppliers controlled 50% of total antenna shipments in 2016 while Top 3 macrocell BTS antenna suppliers controlled 63% of revenues. The Top 3 antenna suppliers in unit shipment volumes were [Huawei Technologies](#), Comba Telecom, and CommScope while the Top 3 antenna suppliers in revenues were Huawei Technologies, CommScope and Kathrein-Werke KG. Chinese antenna suppliers captured 59% of shipments and 53% of revenues in 2016. Huawei Technologies was again the largest antenna supplier in 2016 in terms of both units and revenues.

“LTE-Advanced Pro services are driving mobile network upgrades to 4T4R remote radio unit (RRU)



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Market Analysis

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9th Edition  
Global BTS Antenna Market Analysis and Forecast, 2017-2021  
December 2017

Massive MIMO  
64T64R 128-element  
Antenna Radio System

x8

Beam Forming/Calibration

SFP Module x 1, 2  
or 4x CPRI  
link

Digital BBU

1, 2 or 4x CPRI  
link

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architectures, which in turn are requiring mobile operators to add more antenna ports and upgrade antenna systems in their networks. Additionally, the convergence of TDD and FDD services onto the same antenna system has resulted in the introduction of 30-port antenna products within the industry," says Lum.

Total revenues including passive, semi-active, and massive MIMO antennas were USD \$3.7 billion in 2016, down 5% from 2015 levels. EJM Wireless Research forecasts global antenna revenues to reach a record USD \$45 billion by 2021 as [massive MIMO antenna radio systems \(MM-ARS\)](#) for LTE-Advanced Pro and 5G services contribute to the majority of revenues.



Earl Lum, President EJM Wireless Research

"We remain skeptical about the return on investment and capacity gains of current 32T32R FDD and 64T64R TDD MM-ARS solutions compared with current 4x4 MIMO technology for LTE-Advanced Pro services. We also believe that the use of sector splitting to add capacity may be the most economical option for addressing overloaded macro sites. The mobile industry may wait for 16T16R MM-ARS solutions before they deploy these types of products. We do however expect initial commercial deployments in the United States with 28GHz microwave MM-ARS products during the second half of 2018," says Lum.

#### About EJM Wireless Research

EJM Wireless Research provides proprietary, accurate and cutting-edge market analysis and consulting services on the wireless technology ecosystem. The firm's wireless infrastructure research focuses on vertical elements of the wireless ecosystem including telecommunication standards evolution, global and regional regulatory issues, spectrum availability, mobile operators, and mobile infrastructure equipment vendors. In addition, the firm provides analysis across horizontal technology suppliers including RF semiconductor materials, RF semiconductor/components, and RF subsystems. Our goal is to provide our clients with critical market analysis and information.

EJM Wireless Research believes it has a corporate responsibility, both local and international, in giving back to the community. Please visit our website for more information about the charitable organizations it supports at: [http://www.ejmwireless.com/corporate\\_responsibility.html](http://www.ejmwireless.com/corporate_responsibility.html).

EJM Wireless Research is managed by Earl Lum. Mr. Lum has 25 years of experience within the wireless industry including 8 years as an Equity Research Analyst on Wall Street. The company is headquartered in Salem, NH. For more information about EJM Wireless Research, please visit the company's website at [www.ejmwireless.com](http://www.ejmwireless.com).

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