



PRESS RELEASE

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Free: 5G at no extra cost on France's largest 5G network



Today, Free is launching 5G and offering **the only plan available in France including 5G at no extra cost** that has unlimited mobile Internet for its Freebox subscribers. **Free has the country's largest 5G network**, with 5,255 active sites and already covers **almost 40% of the French population**. With this new plan, Free is opening up widespread access to 5G in France.

5G at no extra cost

True to its founding values, Free has decided to bring 5G within everyone's reach by including it in the Free Mobile Plan, while keeping the same prices and increasing the fair use data limit.

FREE 5G PLAN

Unlimited 5G	
€9.99 /month <small>for Freebox Pop subscribers</small>	€15.99 /month <small>for Freebox subscribers</small>

150GB
€19.99 /month

The largest 5G mobile network in France

With 5,255 active sites in France, Free's 5G network already covers almost 40% of the population. This means that Free now has the country's largest mobile 5G network, spanning rural areas as well as towns and cities.

For its 5G network, Free uses frequencies in the 700 MHz band – which according to Arcep* is the first frequency band to be fully available for 5G (since mid-2019) – as well as frequencies in the 3.5 GHz band which Free acquired in the French spectrum auction in 2020.

Thanks to its network investments and purchase of frequencies, as from today Free can offer its subscribers:

- Broad coverage and good indoor reception thanks to the so-called low frequencies (700 MHz), which have very good propagation characteristics.
- Ultra-fast speeds, thanks to 70 MHz in the high frequency band (3.5 GHz) which gives speeds that are up to three times faster than 4G.

Using low frequencies for coverage and high frequencies for speed fully optimizes the Free mobile network. It was a technical choice that all of France's telcos made when rolling out their 3G and 4G networks.

Free is principally using European equipment for developing its 4G and 5G networks. In all, over 2,000 people are working day in, day out on deploying this network across the whole of France.

A wide range of 5G smartphones available

Free is also giving its subscribers access to the latest 5G smartphones by offering them a wide range of 5G smartphones starting from €319. Again, true to its long-standing principles, Free is transparently and responsibly making it easier for subscribers to get a new 5G phone by giving them the option of paying for it in four interest-free instalments, or renting it, available both in Free stores and online.

5G – a more energy-efficient technology

5G is an energy-efficient technology as it will absorb the steep rises we're seeing in mobile data traffic (30% each year) without causing network energy consumption to shoot up.

This means that rolling out 5G is more energy friendly than densifying the 4G network. In France, 4G networks will very soon reach saturation point and without 5G there would need to be a lot more mobile sites. A 5G mast using 3.5 GHz frequencies will provide higher speeds, while using a contained amount of energy.

5G technology is the first generation of mobile equipment that is green by design. In other words, energy efficiency is incorporated right from the design phase.

Everything is ultra-integrated, with software that can activate advanced sleep modes as 5G masts only emit when necessary, based on the requirements in a given area.

An offer available as from today

The Free 5G Plan is accessible as from today both for existing Free Mobile Plan subscribers – at no extra cost – and to new subscribers. To get 5G access, subscribers just need to activate the 5G service online in their subscriber space.

Where can you find the new Free Mobile Plan?

- > On the mobile.free.fr website
- > In one of our 105 Free stores or at a Free Kiosk (see map [here](#))

Free's mobile network coverage map is available here: mobile.free.fr/couverture/

The largest 5G network in France in terms of the number of 5G sites in service: 5,255 700 MHz/3.5 GHz sites (o/w 220 3.5 GHz sites) in Metropolitan France as at December 14, 2020.

See anfr.fr for the number of 5G sites authorized by the ANFR (and which operators can therefore bring into service).

Offer subject to terms and conditions. 5G network in rollout phase; accessible in Metropolitan France subject to a compatible plan and mobile device. Only available in areas covered by the Free 5G network.

See mobile.free.fr for further information about coverage and compatible mobile devices.

Free Mobile Plan (5G activation required through the online subscriber space): mobile data in Metropolitan France; for non-Freebox subscribers: 150 GB in 5G/4G+/4G/3G with a 5G mobile, 100 GB in 4G+/4G/3G with a 4G+/4G mobile, or 3 GB in 3G with a 3G mobile; for Freebox subscribers: unlimited 5G and 4G/4G+ and 150 GB in 3G with a 5G mobile, unlimited 4G+/4G and 100 GB in 3G with a 4G+/4G mobile, or 3 GB in 3G with a 3G mobile. Speeds reduced in excess of the 150 GB, 100 GB and 3 GB data allowances. SIM/eSIM: €10. Price for Freebox Pop subscribers: €10 per month reduction for one Free Mobile Plan. Price for other Freebox subscribers (other than Freebox Pop): €4 per month reduction for up to four Free Mobile Plans. Reductions only available for Freebox subscribers as part of a multi-line offer (same bank details and same address). Subscribers canceling their Freebox Pop/Freebox subscription will lose their reductions.

 Hands-free kit recommended.

**source Arcep: <https://www.arcep.fr/nos-sujets/parlons-5g-toutes-vos-questions-sur-la-5g.html>*

About Free

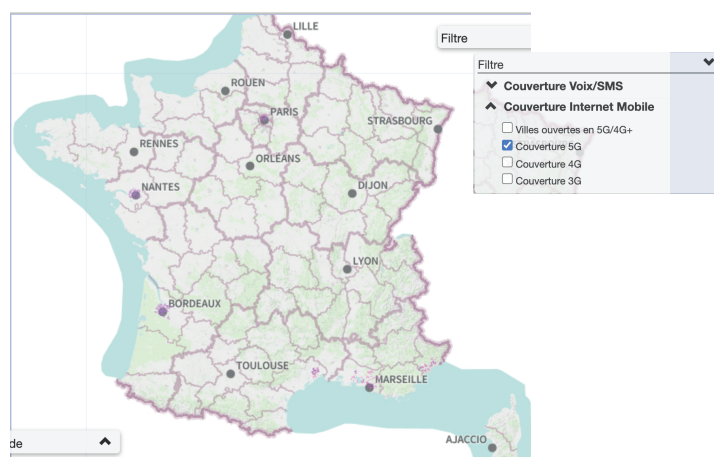
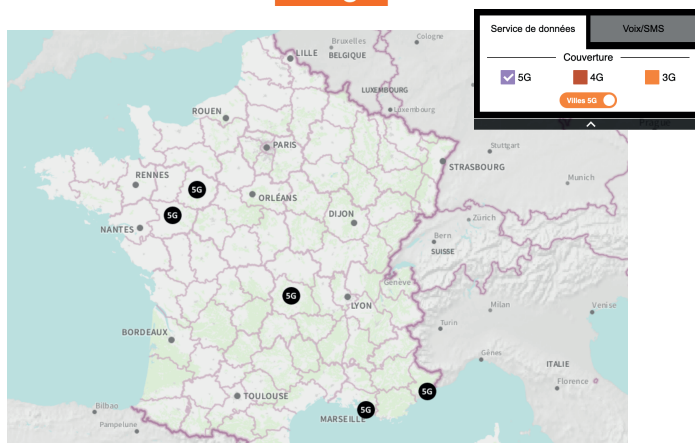
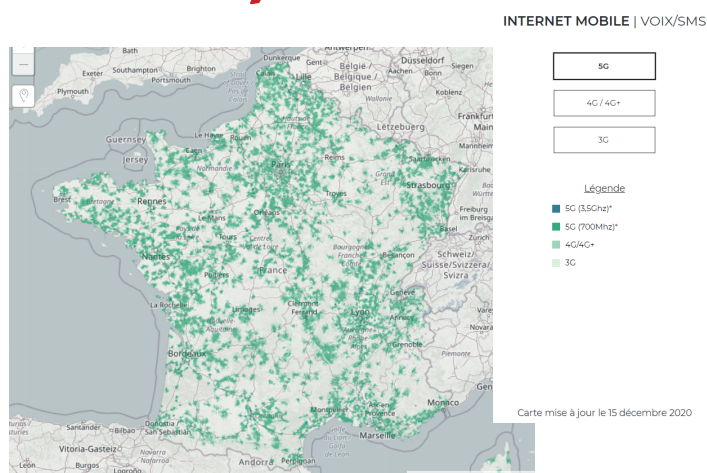
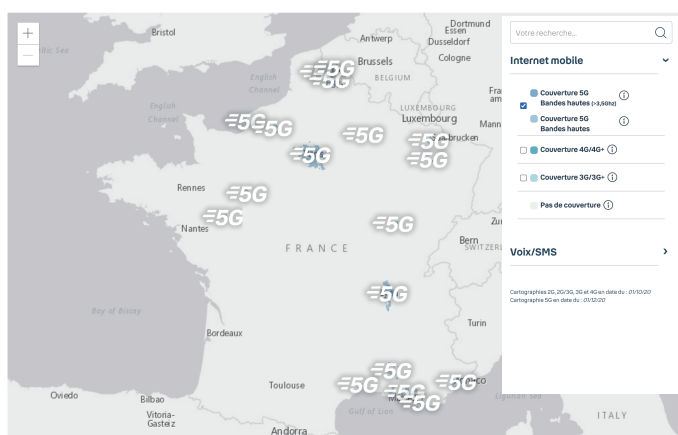
Free – an Iliad Group subsidiary – is the inventor of the Freebox, the first multiservice box on ADSL. Free is behind numerous innovations in the Broadband and Ultra-Fast Broadband access segment. Since January 2012, Free has brought mobile phone usage within everyone's reach with straightforward offerings at very attractive prices. As at September 30, 2020, Free had over 20 million subscribers in France (6.7million Broadband and Ultra-Fast Broadband subscribers and 13.5 million mobile subscribers). On May 29, 2018, the Group launched its mobile network in Italy under the Iliad brand, becoming the country's fourth mobile operator, and had over 6.8 million subscribers at September 30, 2020. Following the acquisition of Play – the leader in the Polish mobile market – Iliad has become the sixth-largest mobile operator in Europe.¹

Appendix: 5G coverage maps of France's telcos

¹ In terms of number of mobile subscribers in Europe, excluding M2M.

5G coverage maps of France's telcos

as of December 14, 2020



Sources

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<https://reseaux.orange.fr/cartes-de-couverture/mobile-3g-4g-5g>
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