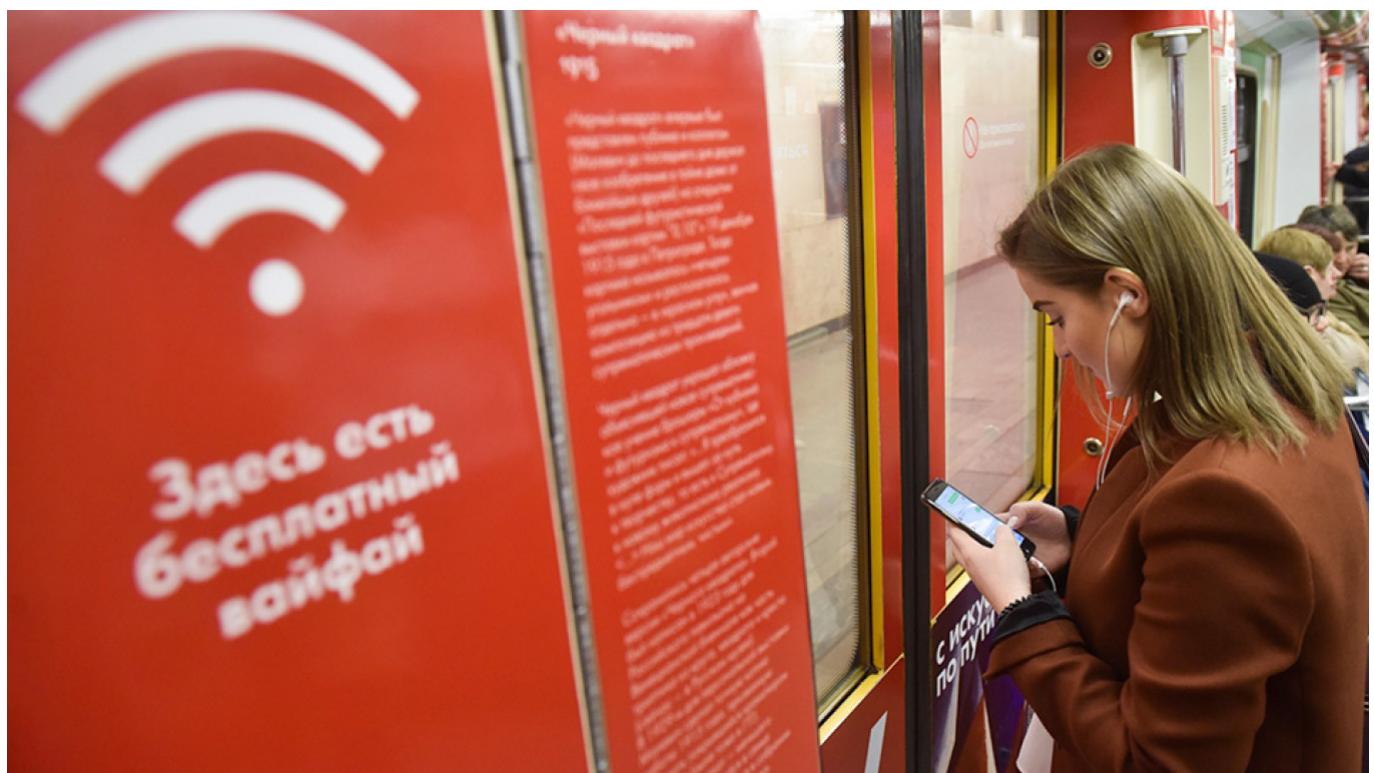


Putin Reserves Key 5G Frequency for Military Use, Media Reports

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Anton Kardashov / Moskva News Agency

Russia risks falling behind the rest of the world in next-generation 5G technology after President Vladimir Putin has reserved its most popular frequency range for the military and intelligence services, Russia's *Vedomosti* business daily reported Thursday.

With speeds at least 10 times faster than 4G technology, 5G is expected to power internet-connected products ranging from self-driving cars and smart cities to augmented reality and artificial intelligence. The 3.4-3.8GHz range is widely popular for 5G technology, with only China and Japan using 4.4-4.99GHz, a frequency with limited equipment availability.

Related article: [Russia's MTS Signs 5G Deal With Chinese Telecom Giant Huawei, Reports Say](#)

Putin has sided with the Security Council in its position against allocating the 3.4GHz-3.8GHz frequency range to mobile operators for the development of 5G, *Vedomosti* reported, [citing](#) sources including a government official, a telecom employee and a source familiar with

Russia's 5G deliberations.

The 3.4GHz-3.8GHz frequencies are reportedly reserved for military, intelligence and security use. Russia's Communications Ministry has [proposed](#) allocating the 4.4GHz-4.99GHz frequency range for 5G, the *Kommersant* business daily reported this week.

The Kremlin later on Thursday [declined](#) to comment on what it said was "official correspondence."

"This is fake news," an unnamed source from one of Russia's top four telecom providers told the state-run TASS news agency after the *Vedomosti* report was published.

"This is Putin's reaction in spring to the Security Council's April letter. Things have changed dramatically in favor of 3.4GHz-3.8GHz since then. Operators and the Communications Ministry are currently rewriting the 5G development concept with a view toward 3.4-3.8GHz," the source [said](#).

The Swedish telecom equipment supplier Ericsson announced last week that it [launched](#) Russia's first 5G zone in central Moscow with the country's fourth-largest operator Tele2. Putin's digital economy project aims to deploy 5G across major Russian cities by 2022.

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