# SLOVENIA'S BEST MOBILE NETWORK

MOBILE BENCHMARK MEASUREMENT REPORT JULY 2023







# HECK

## Quality assurance for modern communication networks

### ABOUT NET CHECK

NET CHECK was founded in 1999 to improve the quality of communication networks. Since then, NET CHECK has become one of the leading partners of network operators and infrastructure providers in the operation and optimisation of mobile and fixed communication networks of all technologies.

NET CHECK's core competencies include international network benchmarking (comparative measurements), network planning and fault analyses, covering drive test services, optimisation, site audit, network planning, rollouts, upgrades, swaps, root cause analysis, and advanced custom reporting.

NET CHECK is part of the NC Group, headquartered in Berlin (Germany), and independent of any industry stakeholders. It is a trusted partner of scientific and government institutions due to its high level of expertise, data quality and security.

### NET CHECK

To ensure the sustainability and reproducibility of reliable results in repeating campaigns, NET CHECK has implemented an ISO-certified management system, and approved its testing and post-processing procedures according to telecommunication industry standards.

The criteria according to which the network operators are assessed and the benchmarking created are determined exclusively by NET CHECK's experts. They follow the NET CHECK benchmarking methodology and are the same for all countries and test areas. The network operators have no influence on the routing of the tests within the test area. They also have no influence on the timing of the tests within the test period.

### **#1 provider** of quality assurance

### **BENCHMARKING** METHODOLOGY

The NET CHECK testing methodology strives to provide an accurate, unbiased, and balanced assessment of network performance. It is based on ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute) and has been successfully implemented in various countries and by different network operators.

To ensure that sample collection provides a representative view of the network performance across different-sized communities, NET CHECK carried out comprehensive drive tests.

The drive tests cover big, medium and small cities, motorways, main roads and rural roads.

The measuring equipment is placed in the roof boxes and collects data on the performance of voice and data services. Measuring various KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) for voice and data services, NET CHECK's goal is to present real customer experience, as users perceive it when using a mobile communications network. Operators can earn a maximum of **1000 points**, with **350 points** for voice services and **650 points** for data services.

The network operator receives ranking points based on the measured KPI value. Each KPI can contribute a predefined number of ranking points.

350 pts

**650** pts

DATA SERVICE



**OVERALL RANKING POINTS** 



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### Voice Services Data Services | \*Percentages are approximate

### **MEASUREMENT** SPECIFICATIONS

## **MEASUREMENT** AREA

The measurement area covered all 12 administrative entities of Slovenia as defined as statistical regions in 2000.

NET CHECK drove its measurement vehicle to 27 cities and collected measurements along the entire route, both in the cities and on the motorways, connecting roads and Rural Roads.

### **MEASUREMENT** PERIOD

The measurements were conducted between 3rd and 25th of July 2023.



The measurement technicians spent a total of 100 hours and 49 minutes on test drives, covering a total measurement distance of 2927 kilometers.

Of these, 1754 kilometers came from innercity test drives in a total of 27 cities. 1173 kilometers were completed by the test drivers on connecting roads.



NET CHECK drive testing

### **19 districts 27 cities**

**DRIVE TESTS** 

### **1754 kilometres** 4871 minutes

**CITY DRIVE TESTS** 



CONNECTING ROADS





### **NET** CHECK

NET CHECK attaches great importance to using high quality and state-of-the-art measurement technology for all tests

**MEASUREMENT** EQUIPMENT

### **DRIVE** TESTING

Measurement equipment for drive testing: SwissQual Benchmarker II (Rohde & Schwarz)

The measuring equipment was placed in the roof box of a passenger car, collecting data on the performance of voice and data services during the tests. The phones were cooled down to avoid overheating due to sun and extensive use. The measuring equipment was placed in the roof box of a passenger car, collecting data on the performance of voice and data services during the tests. The phones were cooled down to avoid overheating due to sun and extensive use.

This approach allows performance measurement for all the operators simultaneously and on the same locations.

For all tests, current models of Android mobile phones of Samsung were used.

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NET CHECK drive testing

### **TESTING** OF SERVICES



For data services, a total of around 25,000 data samples per operator were collected. For voice services, around 2,200 test calls were made and 10 speech samples were collected in each test call, resulting in a total of around 22,000 speech samples.

### **VOICE** SERVICES

Voice services are tested through sequences consisting of a series of five mobile-to-mobile voice calls:

- 2 standard calls
- 2 calls during which a data download session is executed simulating internet usage during a call
- 1 WhatsApp call.

Then the sequence repeats.

### **DATA** SERVICES

Data services are tested through sequences consisting of:

- Web browsing on frequently visited web-pages
- Playing a YouTube video
- Network capacity tests: downloading and uploading files of given sizes or during a given time
- Interactivity tests: Simulating online gaming and online meetings.

The sequence repeats during the entire measurement.

	VOICE SERVICES	DATA SERVICES
MEASUREMENT DEVICE	Samsung S23+	Samsung S23+
MEASUREMENT OBJECTIVE	Cities and Connecting Roads Cities and Connecting Roads	
MEASUREMENT SAMPLE	2,200 calls per operator	25,000 tests per operator
TEST CASE SCENARIO	Max Call Setup Time: 30 (s) Call duration: 120 (s) Call window: 160 (s) Call mode: VoLTE preferred Speech quality: POLQA WB Reference File: English Scenario: 4 x VoLTE preferred (2 x Classic Call + 2 x MultiRAB) +1 x WhatsApp call	<ul> <li>YouTube 4K (livestream)</li> <li>Web Browsing, static and dynamic (Kepler as static, and dynamic based on Alexa ranking)</li> <li>Download and Upload tests:</li> <li>HTTP time based: FDTT DL 10 (s)/ UL UDP FDTT 10 (s)</li> <li>HTTP file based: FDFS DL/ UL (10MB/5MB)</li> <li>Online gaming and online meeting simulations</li> </ul>



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# **OVERALL** RESULTS

All achieved the best overall ranking result. Out of a possible 1000 points, A1 scored with 927.6, close behind is Telemach with 20.8 points less. With a difference of 33.2 points, Telekom is in third place.

In voice, Al scored nearly 3 points less than Telekom, and almost 18 points more than Telemach.

But, in the data category, Al scored 36 points more than Telekom, and 3 points more than Telemach, securing first place in the overall ranking.



Voice Overall Data Overall ----- Overall Ranking

**OVERALL** RESULTS  $\checkmark$ 

# 927.6 pts

**#1:** A1 <u>Λ</u>1

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# **VOICE** RESULTS

In the voice services tests, Telekom ranks first by scoring 328.2 points out of 350 possible ranking points for voice services. Al scores 3 points less, 325.2 points out of 350 possible. Telemach ranks third with 307.6 points.

If we look at the results of the voice service differentiated by city and connecting roads, we find that all the Operators perform better in the cities. The ranking remains the same, and Telemach has the smallest percentage difference between performance in the city and on connecting routes.



**VOICE** RESULTS  $\checkmark$ 

**#1:** Telekom

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# **DATA** RESULTS

In the data services tests, Al scores 602.4 points out of 650 possible ranking points for data services, followed by Telemach with 599.2. Telekom with 566.2 follows at a greater distance.

Similar to voice, the data services in cities outperform that on connecting roads. Telemach even slightly tops A1 in the city category, but on the connecting roads the difference is a bit larger in favor of A1, resulting in an overall win for A1 in the data services as well.



# 602.4 pts

**#1:** A1 

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### DATA & VOICE KPI REPORT

### Voice KPIs

Ranking Identifiers	A		telemach
CLASSIC CALLS			
Call Setup Success Ratio (%)	99.58	99.05	99.17
Dropped Call Ratio (%)	0.24	0.06	1.50
Avg CST (s)	3.59	4.25	4.48
Bad CST Ratio (> 15 s) (%)	0.12	0.12	0.06
MOS <= 1.6 RATIO (%)	0.34	0.29	0.66
POLQA AVG (MOS)	4.56	4.54	4.45
Disturbed and Impaired Call Ratio (%)	0.00	0.00	0.00
WHATSAPP CALLS			
Call Setup Success Ratio (%)	98.97	99.59	100.00
Dropped Call Ratio (%)	0.62	0.21	0.41
MOS <= 1.6 RATIO (%)	0.61	0.19	0.56
POLQA AVG (MOS)	4.49	4.48	4.49
Disturbed and Impaired Call Ratio (%)	0.42	0.00	0.21
MULTIRAB DATA			
MultiRAB Data Success Ratio (%)	99.62	99.35	99.49

### Data KPIs

Ranking Identifiers		
DOWNLOAD (File Size 10MB)		
FDFS DL Success Ratio (%)		
UPLOAD (File Size 5MB)		
FDFS UL Success Ratio (%)		
DOWNLOAD (Test Duration 10 seconds)		
FDTT DL 10 PCTL Data Rate (Mbit/s)		
FDTT DL Average Data Rate (Mbit/s)		
FDTT DL 90 PCTL Data Rate (Mbit/s)		
UPLOAD (Test Duration 10 seconds)		
FDTT UL 10 PCTL Data Rate (Mbit/s)		
FDTT UL Average Data Rate (Mbit/s)		
FDTT UL 90 PCTL Data Rate (Mbit/s)		
BROWSING (Web Browsing)		
HTTP Browsing 1MB Reached Time Average (ms)		
HTTP Browsing Success Ratio (%)		
VIDEO STREAM (YouTube Live Stream 4k)		
Video Stream Success Ratio (%)		
TTFP >= 10 s Ratio (%)		
Video Stream Irritating Experience Ratio (%)		
INTERACTIVITY KPIS		
Interactivity Packet Error Ratio (%)		
Interactivity Median RTT (ms)		

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A <sup>1</sup>		telemach
99.19	99.22	99.25
99.24	99.66	99.14
69.578	22.135	35.480
367.458	97.505	353.769
645.467	196.328	707.703
11.256	12.566	11.741
53.906	40.803	53.308
105.010	77.159	112.111
1025.5	1297.6	1123.4
99.23	99.45	99.22
99.57	99.78	99.40
0.11	0.06	0.00
0.32	0.83	0.16
1.99	4.37	3.31
42	42	38

### **PERFORMANCE** DEVELOPMENT

Al achieved a remarkable improvement in two KPIs:

The percentage of data tests performed in 5G doubled from almost 40% in 2022 to nearly 80% in 2023.

The average download data rate increased from 120 Mbit/s in 2022 to 367 Mbit/s in 2023. This means, the users of A1 experienced an average speed increase of more than three times. The increase of the 5G share within the performed data tests reflects the successful nation-wide expansion of the 5G network by Al.

In both KPIs, Al could secure a pole position compared to its main competitors (see table page 11).

### Data tests performed in 5G



### Average download data rate (Mbit/s)



## The average download speed for Al clients tripled from 2022 to 2023.



### **KPI** DESCRIPTION

What we measured:

### **Ranking Identifiers CLASSIC CALLS** Percentage of successfully established calls **Call Setup Success Ratio Dropped Call Ratio** Percentage of dropped calls Avg Call Setup Time Average time to establish a call Percentage of successfully established calls, where Call Setup Time >= 15 s Ratio call establishment takes more than 15 seconds Percentage of speech samples where the voice POLQA <= 1.6 RATIO signal quality (MOS) is lower than 1.6 The average value of the voice signal quality (MOS) POLQA AVG (MOS) Call flow where for three or more consecutive samples Disturbed Call Ratio (out of a total of ten) for speech quality measurement, the quality is less than 1.6 Call flow where for five samples (out of a total of ten) Impaired Call Ratio for measuring speech quality, the quality is less than 1.6 WHATSAPP CALLS **Call Setup Success Ratio** Percentage of successfully established calls Percentage of dropped calls **Dropped Call Ratio** Percentage of speech samples where the voice signal POLQA <= 1.6 Ratio quality (MOS) is lower than 1.6 The average value of the voice signal quality (MOS) POLQA AVG (MOS) Call flow where for three or more consecutive samples **Disturbed Call Ratio** (out of a total of ten) for speech quality measurement, the quality is less than 1.6 Call flow where for five samples (out of a total of ten) Impaired Call Ratio for measuring speech quality, the quality is less than 1.6 **MULTIRAB DATA** The percentage of successfully completed data transfers MultiRAB Data Success Ratio during the duration of the voice service

Ranking Identifiers	
DOWNLOAD (File Size 10MB)	
HTTP Transfer FDFS DL Success Ratio	Percentage of successfully completed data download transfer tests
UPLOAD (File Size 5MB)	
HTTP Transfer FDFS UL Success Ratio	Percentage of successfully completed data upload transfer tests
DOWNLOAD (Test Duration 10 seconds)	
HTTP Transfer FDTT DL MDR P10	10% of total measured tests slower than (MB)
HTTP Transfer FDTT DL MDR AVG	Average file download speed (MB)
HTTP Transfer FDTT DL MDR P90	90% of total measured tests slower than (MB)
UPLOAD (Test Duration 10 seconds)	
UDP FDTT UL MDR P10	10% of total measured tests slower than (MB)
UDP FDTT UL FDTT DL MDR AVG	Average file upload speed (MB)
UDP FDTT UL FDTT DL MDR P90	90% of total measured tests slower than (MB)
BROWSING (Web Browsing)	
HTTP Browsing Time To 1MB	The time required to open a 1MB page
HTTP Browsing Success Ratio	Percentage of successfully completed web browsing tests
VIDEO STREAM (YouTube Live Stream 4k)	
Video Stream Success Ratio	Percentage of successfully completed video streaming tests
Video Stream TTFP >= 10 s Ratio	Percentage of tests where the video started after ten seconds or more
Video Stream Irritating Experience Ratio	Percentage of tests with significantly reduced quality of video transmission

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# **OUR** CONCLUSION

As in the 2022 benchmark, AI again achieved the highest score this year. Compared with last year's measurement results, AI was even able to improve once again and extend its lead over the runner-up with a total of 927.62 points. Telemach came in second with 906.78 points, a difference of more than 20 points.

The improvement in the quality of the A1 network compared with the 2022 benchmark is thus obvious. Maximum scores were achieved for several ranking key performance indicators, resulting in an increase of almost 10 points compared with the previous year.

The larger lead is also due to the fact that Telemach and Telecom both performed slightly below the previous year. Overall, though, it can be said that all operators tested achieved high scores, indicating that Slovenia has a very good network in its cities and on connecting roads.

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### **NET** CHECK

### The improvement in the quality of the Al network compared to the 2022 benchmark is obvious.

## Maximum sco were achieve for several ranking KPIs.



### NET CHECK

NET CHECK GmbH

Ella-Barowsky-Straße 45-47 10829 Berlin Germany

T +49 (0) 30 303080-600 F +49 (0) 30 303080-668 E info@netcheck.de

nc-group.net/en/net-check