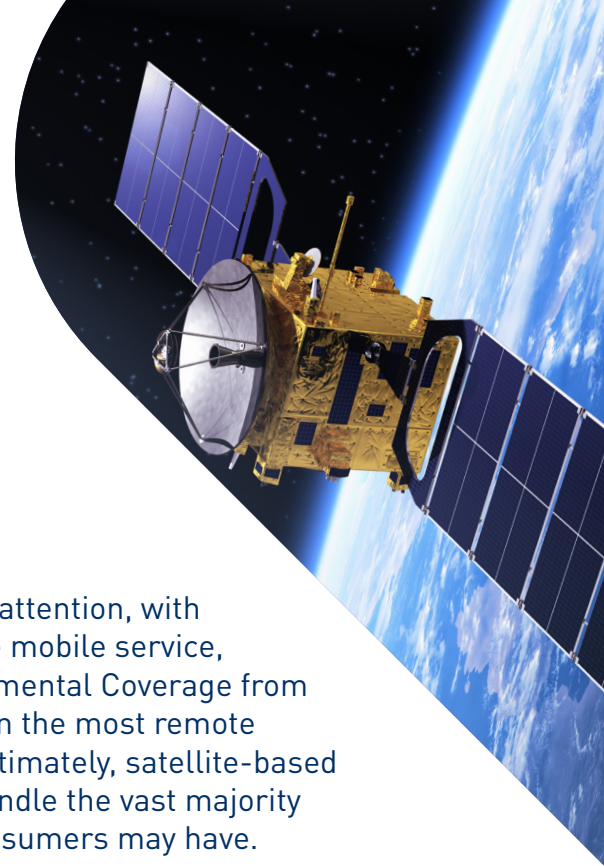


Satellite Cellular Communications FAQs



Using satellites for cellular coverage has attracted significant attention, with carriers releasing high-profile announcements. While satellite mobile service, sometimes referred to as “Direct-to-Device” (D2D) or “Supplemental Coverage from Space” (SCS), has many promising applications—particularly in the most remote regions of the country—this is still a developing technology. Ultimately, satellite-based services will complement existing terrestrial networks that handle the vast majority of mobile traffic. Below are answers to common questions consumers may have.

Will satellites replace the need for cell towers?

Terrestrial infrastructure, including towers and small cells, remains essential to meeting today’s expanding wireless demand. Distance to the end user (a couple of miles vs hundreds of miles), the shared nature of a satellite beam across a wide geographic area, the amount of signal power required, and the amount of spectrum available are currently limiting factors for SCS. Terrestrial-based infrastructure continues to be essential for mobile connectivity.

Does SCS allow a mobile device to work anywhere?

SCS requires line of site to the satellites. Coverage will not work indoors or in crowded areas.

Does SCS provide a substitute for 5G coverage?

SCS currently supports basic texting capabilities with some providers delivering voice, but high-bandwidth applications like video and picture messaging and using internet-connected applications are not currently supported outside of laboratory conditions. U.S. mobile data consumption continues to rise on an exponential basis with terrestrial operators constantly deploying new infrastructure to meet the demand.

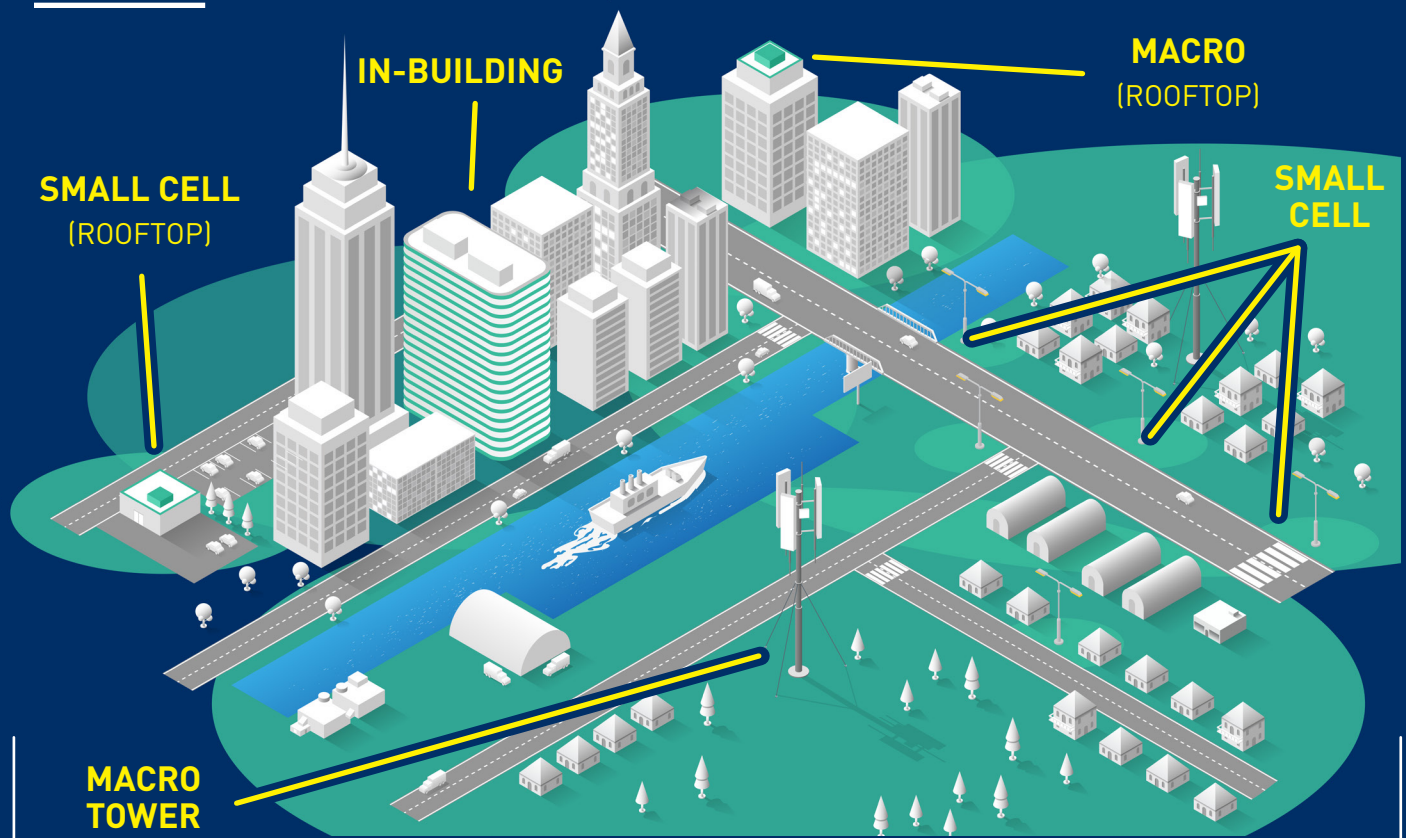
Is mobile satellite broadband service the same service as I can get to my home?

Despite shared company names and shared satellites, your mobile device can’t support the same level of connectivity as satellite broadband for homes. For some locations, fixed satellite broadband services achieve comparable speeds to other fixed broadband technologies through advanced on-premise equipment and engineering solutions that rely on a fixed location, presenting barriers to achieving the same quality of service on the move.

What role does satellite play in the mobile communications ecosystem?

Terrestrial networks are not viable everywhere. SCS provides a great complementary service allowing basic access to vital communications where it previously did not exist.

A VIEW FROM THE TOP:
TERRESTRIAL AND SUPPLEMENTAL COVERAGE FROM SPACE



2-5 MILES
AVERAGE DOWNLOAD SPEED OF UP TO 158.5 Mbps PER USER

