

Virgin Media O2 and Mavenir Achieve Open RAN Success at Allianz Stadium During Six Nations Match

March 21, 2025



Virgin Media O2, in collaboration with Mavenir, has successfully deployed an Open RAN solution at the Allianz Stadium, significantly enhancing mobile connectivity for thousands of attendees during the recent Six Nations rugby match. This deployment, part of the government-backed 5G MoDE project, demonstrates the efficacy of open network solutions in managing high-density mobile traffic.

A temporary Open RAN Cell on Wheels was trialed at the O2 Blueroom, located outside the stadium, during the England vs. Italy fixture. The technology effectively mitigated congestion and ensured reliable mobile connectivity, particularly during peak usage periods before and after the match.

The trial showcased the potential of open interface technology to complement existing infrastructure and improve mobile performance in crowded environments. Professor David Owens, Head of Technical Trials at Virgin Media O2, stated, "Our successful deployment at the Allianz Stadium marks a significant step forward in transforming mobile connectivity. We are proving that flexible, intelligent networks can deliver impressive performance even under the heavy load conditions of major events."

The insights gathered from this project will inform future radio access network deployments, contributing to the diversification of the UK's telecoms ecosystem and driving innovation in network infrastructure. BG Kumar, President, Access Networks, Platforms, and Digital Enablement at Mavenir, added, "Mavenir is excited to be part of the 5G MoDE application of Open RAN at the Allianz Stadium in Twickenham – a confirmation of the potential that open networks bring to manage high-density mobile traffic."

This successful deployment underscores the potential of Open RAN technology to enhance connectivity in high-demand environments, marking a significant milestone in the evolution of mobile network infrastructure.