

# Turkey delays 4G tender after Erdogan confusion

May 16 2015

---



A woman uses her cellphone in the Eminonu district of Istanbul on March 21, 2014

Turkey has delayed its planned tender for 4G mobile technology licences, reports said Saturday, after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan sowed confusion by saying the country should skip straight to 5G technology.

The transport and telecommunications ministry has decided to postpone the tender auction for fourth generation [mobile technology](#) licences by three months, the Hurriyet and Milliyet dailies said.

Instead of the planned date of May 26, the tender will now take place on August 26, the dailies cited the ministry as saying.

The surprise decision comes after Erdogan on April 21 suggested that that Turkey—whose mobile phone consumers are still only using 3G technology—could skip 4G entirely and "jump" to 5G.

"If we wait two more years, then 5G is going to come along. Otherwise when Turkey gets 4G it will just get put on the rubbish heap," said Erdogan.

Industry experts have cast doubt on Erdogan's comments, saying that it risked being far more than two years before 5G technology arrived in the country, especially given its delay in embracing 4G.

Former transport and communications minister Lutfi Elvan, still hugely influential in the sector, told state television Saturday that the authorities would in fact offer 4G and 5G licences in the same auction.

He said rather than 4G, licences would be offered for a more advanced "4.5G" licence which could then be converted to 5G technology.

The authorities led by Erdogan have been sharply criticised by opponents for lagging behind in using 4G [technology](#), which was rolled out in other developed and emerging nations several years ago.

According to Turkish media, 20 frequency segments are to be auctioned in a tender worth a minimum total volume of 2.3 billion euros (\$2.6 billion).

© 2015 AFP

Citation: Turkey delays 4G tender after Erdogan confusion (2015, May 16) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-05-turkey-4g-tender-erdogan.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.