

3G SHUTDOWN

PREPARATION GUIDE

To help avoid disruption to your business, this guide will provide some key milestones and considerations to help you prepare for the upcoming shutdown of our 3G network.

ASSESS

Assess the impact to your current solution.

Device

Do I have devices in my current fleet that are 3G only and do not have any 4G LTE (band 28) support?

- Device requirement is to support 4G LTE 700 MHz (LTE Band 28) at a minimum.
- Devices with multiband support may receive better performance in areas where additional bands are available.
- If unsure confirm with device manufacturer the capability of deployed devices.
- Further information about our band support can be found here (<https://www.spark.co.nz/shop/mobile/network.html>)

Hardware - antenna

Does my current solution use any additional hardware such as an antenna?

- If so – confirm that your antenna is LTE capable and supports Spark bands.
- Otherwise contact your antenna provider to confirm capability.
- Further information about our band support can be found here (<https://www.spark.co.nz/shop/mobile/network.html>)

Services

Are the current services I'm using impacted by this change?

- **Voice** – once the 3G network is shutdown, any voice services will need to use VoLTE (Voice over LTE).
If you are using a voice service, ensure that your current, or replacement device supports VoLTE.
- **Data** – the only impacted change will be to ensure your devices are compatible with our network see above.
- **SMS** – no impacts as we will support SMS over NAS (Network Attachment Subsystem). As new SMS services become available via our network e.g. SMS over IMS (IP Multimedia Subsystem) and SMS over Diameter (as required for devices with no SIP client), these will also be supported

SCOPE

If your current solution is impacted, begin to scope out your replacement requirements.

Network options

- If you need to implement changes to your IoT solution, it's a good time to assess other network options that may be best suited to your IoT use case.
- We offer a range of network options ideal for IoT use cases.
- Check out our network information for more detail here (<https://www.spark.co.nz/iot/home/networks>).

Device

Is my replacement module (the component normally used to communicate with the Spark network) compatible with the Spark network, and is it already PTC approved?

- Device requirement is to support LTE 700 MHz (LTE Band 28) at a minimum.
- If unsure confirm with device manufacturer the capability of deployed devices.
- Devices with multiband support may receive better performance in areas where additional bands are available.
- Check our list of approved modules here (<https://s.spark.co.nz/40BUkil>).

Module approval

If the module I wish to use supports the right bands but is not PTC approved.

- The module manufacturer can contact Spark to work through the PTC approval process.
- Go to this URL for more information (<https://s.spark.co.nz/40BUkil>).

SIM card

When looking at new device options, also consider any SIM card requirements.

- A new device or module may require a new SIM card form factor.
- Check with manufacturer to confirm the SIM requirement.

Services check list

If your solution requires voice communication, ensure that your replacement device is future proofed with VoLTE support.

Detailed information about our IoT network to assist with scoping can be found here - IoT Wiki (<https://s.spark.co.nz/3LRHJ6A>)

PLANNING

AND TESTING

If your current solution is impacted, begin to plan your implementation.

Solution assessment and testing

- Assess - As part of your selection process, we recommend field testing to ensure all components work with your use case.
- Testing - Additionally, end-to-end testing of your solution will be recommended to ensure full functionality.

Device availability

When dealing with large volumes, ensure ordering of any components allows for production and logistics timeframes to allow for long lead times.

Rollout

Plan your field resources to assist with rollout of new devices.