



Satellite to Mobile (STM)

Description

Direct to handset (DTH)

Direct to Handset technology will enable your phone to connect directly to satellites, providing reliable mobile coverage even in the most remote areas. This technology will ensure you can stay connected without relying solely on traditional ground-based phone towers.

As of now, Direct to Handset technology is not yet fully available in Australia. Currently, only text messaging is supported on certain phone models that are equipped to connect to satellites. Voice calls and data services through this technology are still under development and are expected to become available in the future.



Guide to direct to handset technology

Understanding the technology and its possibilities

- **How It Works:** Direct to Handset technology uses satellites to relay signals directly to your phone, eliminating the need for ground-based phone towers. This can provide coverage in areas where traditional networks cannot reach.
- **Potential Benefits:**
 - **Enhanced connectivity:** Reliable communication in rural, regional and remote areas.
 - **Emergency services:** Critical for safety, ensuring that you can contact emergency services even in isolated locations.
 - **Future expansion:** As technology advances, it is expected to support high-speed data and voice services, enhancing overall connectivity.

Current limitations



- **Limited availability:** Currently supports only text messages on specific models of phones. Check with your provider to see if your phone is compatible.
- **Development stage:** Voice and data services are still in the testing and development phase. Widespread availability is expected within the next few years.
- **Coverage areas:** Initial coverage will focus on rural and remote regions, with plans to expand as the technology evolves.

Which models of mobile phone currently supports Direct to Handset capabilities

There are two Direct to Handset services already available on iPhone 14, iPhone 14 Pro, iPhone 15, and iPhone 15 Pro models, with iOS 16.1 or later, with more expected in future. But this doesn't include making a call just yet, that is still to come.

Optus and Starlink partnership for Direct to Handset technology

Optus and Starlink are working together to bring this groundbreaking technology to Australia. Here's what you need to know about their plans:

- **Initial Phase:**
 - **Current Status:** Only text messaging is available on select phone models.
 - **Future Phases (2024-2025):** Gradual introduction of voice and data services as the technology matures and infrastructure is developed.
- **Service Plans:** Optus will introduce new service plans specifically designed for Direct to Handset technology, providing affordable and reliable options for users in remote areas. Details on these plans will be shared as the launch dates approach.

Want to know more about new tech? Give us a call!

Chat to us on our hotline with one of our team members and let's get the conversation started. If we don't answer, we'll get back to you in no time at all. Visit our [Contact](#) page to find the best way for you to contact us.

Date

10/01/2026

Date Created

26/07/2024