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A Century of Legacy, Thirty Years of Newness



The year 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of New China, and it is also an important year for China Unicom to continue its efforts under the theme of “A Century of Legacy, Thirty Years of Newness”. Over the past thirty years, China Unicom has undergone numerous transformations in the telecommunications industry, evolving from a mobile communications enterprise with a registered capital of 1 billion to a technology service company with operations across 31 provinces in China and multiple countries and regions overseas. It ranked 279th in “Fortune Global 500” for the year 2024.

Casting heritage with a hundred years of inheritance

In the early 1920s, the initial development of wireless communication in our country. The active cultivation of communication technology personnel across various regions spurred advancements in related fields such as electronic technology and communication technology. With the establishment of the People's Republic of China, communication personnel, with their tenacious spirit of struggle, established nationwide communication links in just three years. Subsequently, batch after batch of communication workers have made indelible contributions to the construction of China's communication industry and economic and social development.

- In early March 1949, the Xiangshan Telephone Special Bureau officially commenced operations.
- The Telegraph Building, completed in September 1958 and located on Chang'an Street in Beijing, stood as a testament to the arduous struggle of those in the telecommunications industry.
- As a microcosm of the advancement in communication technology in New China, the Beijing Long-Distance Telephone Bureau was completed and began operation on 1 July 1976.
- The 17th National Posts and Telecommunications Work Conference held in 1979 proposed that communication is also a social productive force.
- The “National Postal and Telecommunications Ninth Five-Year Plan Outline” released on 12 May 1994 officially confirmed that by the end of the 20th century, an “Eight Verticals and Eight Horizontals” optical cable transmission backbone network will be established, covering provincial capitals and key regions nationwide, and connecting the world.



The Beijing Telegraph Building newly constructed in 1958



The work scene inside the Beijing Long Distance Telephone Building in the 1970s

Unicom establishes a new chapter

The establishment of “China Unicom” is a significant strategic decision in the process of China's reform and opening-up. It represented an important reform in the telecommunications sector, by breaking the monopoly, introducing competition, and promoting the substantial development of the communications industry in accordance with market economy principles. China Unicom, with its high-quality and diverse communication services, promotes communication benefits for the public. It is listed in places such as Shanghai and Hong Kong, gradually growing into an emerging telecommunications enterprise.

- On 19 July 1994, China United Telecommunications Corporation announced its establishment at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, marking the beginning of a transformation to break the monopoly in the telecommunications industry and promote innovation in communication services. From then on, the distinctive telecommunications brand “Unicom” became embedded in the long course of development of China's telecommunications industry.
- In 1995, China Unicom adopted GSM digital mobile communication technology to build China's second public mobile communication network in four cities: Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, which drove a significant reduction in mobile phone prices.



China United Telecommunications Corporation Inaugural Meeting

- On 8 January 2002, China Unicom launched its CDMA business, and by 2004 it had developed into the world's second largest CDMA operator.
- In August 2004, China Unicom launched its new mobile communication service brand, "Worldwind", enabling users to seamlessly switch between GSM and CDMA mobile networks, enjoying dual-network services.



China Unicom GSM digital mobile phone network inauguration ceremony



China Unicom CDMA network inauguration ceremony



On 9 October 2002, China Unicom was listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange

- On 21 and 22 June 2000, the Company (formerly known as China Unicom Limited) successfully issued shares on the New York Stock Exchange and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong respectively.
- On 9 October 2002, the listing ceremony of China Unicom A share Company was held at the Shanghai Stock Exchange, making China Unicom the first telecommunications operator in China to be listed in Hong Kong, the United States, and the mainland.
- On 6 May 2002, China Telecom Group Corporation and China Network Communications Group Corporation completed their restructuring.

Joining hands to embark on a new journey

With the continuous deepening of reforms in China's telecommunications industry, the staff of China Unicom have been endowed with a diverse and rich reform culture. They possess the historical accumulation of a century of telecommunications, uphold the original intention of serving the development of social informatization, and have the determination to courageously shoulder the mission of the era and be a good "Luban Stone" for the Cyber Superpower.

- In August 2008, the former China Netcom, as the designated communication services partner of the Beijing Olympics, fully committed to creating the "Broadband Olympics" and "Digital Olympics".
- In October 2008, the former China Netcom and the former China Unicom merged and restructured, officially establishing China United Network Communications Corporation Limited.
- On 17 January 2009, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology issued the WCDMA 3G licence to China Unicom. China Unicom built the world's largest WCDMA network at that time.
- On 17 May 2009, China Unicom launched the trial commercial use of 3G services.
- On 4 December 2013, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology issued China Unicom the licence to operate "LTE/4G digital cellular mobile Communications Services (TD-LTE)".
- On 27 February 2015, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology issued China Unicom the licence to operate "LTE/4G digital cellular mobile Communications Services (FDD-LTE)." In the 4G era, China Unicom constructed a 4G network integrating both TD-LTE and FDD-LTE standards, significantly promoting the development of China's 4G network.



On 17 May 2009, China Unicom announced the trial commercial use of 3G networks in the first batch of 55 cities

Reforming and innovating towards the future

The mixed-ownership reform of Unicom introduces new energy for development

Through the introduction of strategic investors, China Unicom's mixed-ownership reform has optimised the equity structure and enhanced financial strength. It has also improved governance structure, increased operational efficiency and competitiveness, and driven business innovation and development, while promoting balanced development in the telecommunications market and injecting a diverse and open gene into China Unicom's high-quality development.

- On 28 September 2016, China Unicom was included in the first batch of mixed-ownership reform pilot enterprises by the state.
- In 2017, China Unicom A share Company successfully introduced 9 strategic investors including China Life, Chengtong, Tencent, Baidu, JD.com, Alibaba, etc., and in February 2018, established a diversified board of directors comprising “internal directors + strategic investor directors + independent directors”.
- On 20 December 2022, China Unicom signed strategic cooperation agreements with strategic investors such as Tencent, Baidu, Alibaba, and JD.com to comprehensively launch a new round of cooperation.



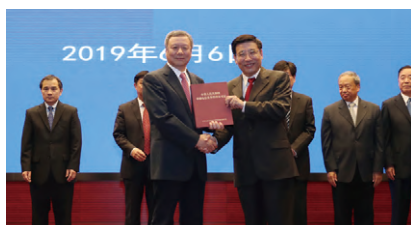
The mixed-ownership reform has received widespread attention and recognition from various media outlets

Co-build and co-share to promote extensive network interconnection

With the advent of the 5G era, China Unicom is actively deploying 5G network construction and deepening co-build and co-share with China Telecom, effectively reducing network construction and operation and maintenance costs, efficiently achieving network coverage, bringing faster and smarter communication experiences to society, and providing more convenient and efficient communication services to customers.

- On 6 June 2019, China Unicom obtained the 5G commercial licence.
- On 9 September 2019, China Unicom and China Telecom commenced 5G network co-build and co-share.
- On 24 December 2023, the “China Telecom & China Unicom 5G Co-build and Co-share SA Construction Project” won the National Premium Engineering Gold Award.

This is the first time for China Unicom and the only national-level premium engineering gold award project in the telecommunications industry in nearly a decade, setting an industry benchmark and an excellent example for new infrastructure construction.



China Unicom obtained the 5G commercial license



“China Telecom & China Unicom 5G Co-build and Co-share SA Construction Project” won the National Premium Engineering Gold Award

Striving to become an innovative frontline troop in digital intelligence integration

China Unicom adheres to integrated innovation, promoting the deep integration of 5G, Big Data, cloud computing and other technologies with various industries. By building 5G networks, establishing a computing power ecosystem, and providing data governance services, it accelerates the digital transformation of industries and enhance production efficiency across various sectors while promoting high-quality economic and social development.

- In March 2022, as the sole official telecommunication service partner of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympic Winter Games, China Unicom successfully completed the communication service support tasks for the Winter Olympics and Paralympics. In April, awarded the honorary title of “Outstanding Contribution Group for Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympic” by the State Council.
- On 19 May 2022, China Unicom was awarded the title of “Chain Leader” of the modern cybersecurity industry chain.
- On 17 July 2022, China Unicom was awarded the honorary title of “Enterprise with Outstanding Contribution in Technological Innovation” for the 2019-2021 term by the SASAC of the State Council.
- In January 2024, the “Mogong” Security Operation Service Platform and “Tianji” Security Platform, self-developed by China Unicom, were permanently included in the collection of the National Museum of China.
- On 12 April 2024, China Unicom became the “Official Communication and Cloud Services Partner” of the 9th Harbin Asian Winter Games.
- On 9 May 2024, China Unicom was awarded two original technology sources for next-generation Internet and Big Data.
- On 4 June 2024, China Unicom was awarded the title of “Chain Leader” in the artificial intelligence industry chain.



Signing ceremony as the official telecommunication services partner of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympic Winter Games



The “Mogong” security operation service platform and the “Tianji” security platform, self-developed by China Unicom, have been permanently included in the collection of the National Museum of China

China Unicom focuses on the main responsibilities of constructing Cyber Superpower and Digital China, courageously acting as the leading contributor of digital information operation and services and the pioneer of digital technology integration and innovation, striving to make new contributions to Chinese-style modernization with new achievements.