

## Price of GPS devices used in communication towers



### Overview

The StingRay is an IMSI-catcher with both passive (digital analyzer) and active (cell-site simulator) capabilities. When operating in active mode, the device mimics a wireless carrier in order to force all nearby mobile phones and other cellular data devices to connect to it. The StingRay family of devices can be mounted in vehicles, on airplanes, helicopter.

### Key Takeaways

GPS devices used in communication towers typically range from \$100 to over \$1,000 depending on features, ruggedness, and integration requirements. General Pricing Overview

GPS devices vary widely in cost based on their intended use and capabilities. Standard consumer-grade GPS units, such as handheld devices, automotive systems, or smartwatches, range from \$100 to \$800 . For communication towers, GPS units are usually industrial-grade or timing-specific devices, designed for precise synchronization of network equipment, which can increase the price compared to consumer models.

Tower-Mounted GPS Equipment



Communication towers often use GPS receivers integrated with RRUs (Remote Radio Units) or other telecom equipment. These devices are designed to withstand outdoor conditions, including temperature extremes, wind, and moisture. While exact pricing for tower-specific GPS modules is less publicly listed, the cost of a telecom tower supporting GPS and other communication equipment can range from \$1,099 to \$1,299 for a 170-foot steel lattice tower, which includes structural support for GPS units and antennas . The GPS component itself is typically a fraction of this cost but may still range from \$200 to \$1,000 depending on precision, redundancy, and manufacturer.

#### Factors Affecting Price

- **Precision and Timing Accuracy:** GPS devices for telecom often provide sub-microsecond timing for network synchronization, which increases cost.
- **Ruggedization:** Outdoor-rated units with IP-rated enclosures and corrosion-resistant materials are more expensive.
- **Integration:** Devices integrated with RRUs, antennas, or network monitoring systems may cost more than standalone GPS receivers.
- **Brand and Certification:** Units certified for telecom standards (e.g., TIA/EIA-222-G compliance) may carry a premium.

#### Summary

For budgeting purposes, expect industrial or telecom-grade GPS devices for communication towers to cost between \$200 and \$1,000 per unit, with the total tower setup (including structural support and other equipment) potentially exceeding \$1,000 per tower . Prices vary based on tower height, environmental protection, and the level of timing precision required.

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As shown above, the tenant, which can be a wireless carrier like Verizon, AT&T, or T-Mobile, places their communications

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