

1 November 1949	The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications is established under the People's Central Government of the People's Republic of China.
February 1987	The first cellular mobile telephone system is introduced in China. The Guangdong Posts and Telecommunications Administration signed the contract for the first phase of the Pearl Delta Mobile Telecommunications Project, the total investment being US\$8.9 million.
18 November 1987	The Guangzhou Exchange, China's first cellular telecommunications exchange, opened with a subscriber base of 150. It had 3 base stations and 40 channels.
September 1988	Guangdong Mobile Communication Corporation was established.
October 1989	The Pearl Delta Mobile network introduced automated roaming service.
December 1992	Automatic cellular roaming service is inaugurated between Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macau.
1 December 1993	Telco Communications Development Limited, later renamed Telco Communications (Group) Limited, a company wholly owned by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, was established in Hong Kong.
9 February 1994	The State Council of the People's Republic of China approved the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications' Three Directions proposal to change the status of the Directorate General of Telecommunications to an independently audited enterprise managing telecommunications networks and services throughout China.
27 April 1995	The Directorate General of Telecommunications was registered as a legal enterprise and was renamed Directorate General of Telecommunications of China Posts and Telecommunications — China Telecom for short.
June 1995	National analog mobile telecommunications networks A and B were interconnected to provide automatic roaming.
1 January 1996	The GSM network commenced pilot operations, providing automatic roaming service to 15 provinces and cities in China including Guangdong Province, Zhejiang Province and Jiangsu Province.
10 January 1996	Interconnection of national analog mobile networks A and B commenced pilot operations.
February 1996	Zhejiang GSM Mobile Communication Company Limited was established. The name was later changed to Zhejiang Mobile Communication Company Limited.
18 July 1996	China Telecom launched international GSM roaming service and roaming services to Hong Kong and Macau. Automatic roaming service was established with Hongkong Telecom CSL.

- 21 March 1997 China Telecom (Hong Kong) Limited was established in Hong Kong. It was later renamed China Telecom (Hong Kong) Group Limited.
- 6 June 1997 China Telecom (Hong Kong) Group Limited acquired a 5.5 per cent interest in Hongkong Telecom.
- 17 July 1997 The cellular subscriber base of the China Telecom (DGT) system exceeded 10 million subscribers and was ranked the third largest cellular subscriber base in the world.
- 3 September 1997 China Telecom (Hong Kong) Limited was incorporated in Hong Kong.
- 16 September 1997 The Securities Committee of the State Council of the P.R. China gave its approval for China Telecom (Hong Kong) Limited to issue shares and seek listings in Hong Kong and overseas.
- 22 and 23 October 1997 The ordinary shares of China Telecom (Hong Kong) Limited were listed on the New York Stock Exchange and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited.
- 9 April 1998 China Telecom (Hong Kong) Group Limited completed the acquisition of an approximately 7.6 per cent interest in the share capital of Hongkong Telecom, increasing its total shareholding in that company to approximately 13 per cent.
- China Telecom (Hong Kong) Group Limited completed the acquisition of an approximately 1.6 per cent interest in Globalstar L.P.
- 3 June 1998 At an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders, the shareholders of China Telecom (Hong Kong) Limited unanimously approved the acquisition of Jiangsu Mobile Communication Company Limited, which was thereafter completed.
- 26 June 1998 The China Telecom (Hong Kong) Limited Shenzhen Representative Office was established in Shenzhen, P.R. China.
- 18 August 1998 The cellular subscriber base of the China Telecom (DGT) system throughout China exceeded 20 million.