

5G COVERAGE EXPECTED FOR HALF OF SINGAPORE BY THE END OF 2022

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SINGAPORE: By the end of 2022, there will be 5G coverage in at least half of Singapore, said Minister of Communications and Information S Iswaran on Thursday (17 October).

Address to the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) SG: Digital Industry Day, Mr. Iswaran, said the agency had decided that Singapore should initially have two 5G networks, as this would allow for optimal network delivery and sustainable competition would. It has also been found that the local market offers space for two more localized 5G networks, so that all four existing telecommunications companies –

1; Singtel, StarHub, M1 and TPG Telecom – can offer this service.

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"With more mobile network operators participating, IMDA expects greater competition to benefit consumers and businesses, resulting in greater choice, competitive pricing and service innovation," said the minister in his statement Speech.

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IMDA announced in a separate press release that it had invited the four telecoms companies to participate in its call for proposals, which was launched on Thursday starts and ends January 21, 2020. The winning

decisions will be made mid-next year, the regulator said.

The proposals will be evaluated on the basis of network design and reliability, network deployment and performance, as well as the price of a 3.5G band match and financial standing.

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Operators of the two state-wide networks must provide 5G standalone networks; H. those that are not used on existing mobile networks. This makes Singapore one of the first countries to provide stand-alone networks. Cities in China and South Korea will do the same thing next year.

The two state-wide operators also need to provide wholesale services to other mobile network operators and virtual mobile network operators, such as CirclesLife, for sites using the 3.5 GHz band.

This announcement follows the public consultation of IMDA between May and June of this year. IMDA claimed to have received 63 replies from industry players, network and equipment providers and individuals.

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In terms of security, IMDA emphasized that the design of the 5G networks should be "fail-proof and secure" and that Key performance and safety requirements should be set out in the IMDA Code of Conduct. The principles of defense and the zero-trust environment should also be applied.

Defense of depth refers to a set of defenses superimposed with redundancy to increase the security of a system and address different attack providers. While Zero-Trust Environment refers to how an organization should review all connection attempts to its networks and systems before granting access.

"These requirements are marginal and have a large number of attached devices in view of the increased security risk of 5G networks being virtualized," said IMDA.

Additional frequencies for 5G will be issued in the following tranches around 2024 or 2025 as the ecosystem matures, according to IMDA.

Mr. Iswaran raised concerns about the business model for 5G technology, pointing to the fact that costs initially tended to be higher as he had already gained experience with 3G and 4G technology.

"However, as the technology matures and the applications scale, it tends to find its own balance and balance in the marketplace, so I think that 5G will not be different in this regard, and the telecommunications companies agree, too," he added.

He also said that IMDA's requirements and prices are "in the middle of what we've seen around the world," after conducting a comprehensive study of what has been done in other markets.

IMDA announced three new industry partnerships on Thursday to investigate the use of 5G networks in Europe in the areas of cloud gaming, smart estates and urban mobility.

Razer and Singtel Partnership to Develop 5G Cloud Games. This refers to the ability to play compute-intensive games on a mobile low-end device, since the actual data processing takes place in the cloud.

This project explores the optimal design and engineering required for cloud games, as well as the impact of environmental disruptions on gameplay performance. The test sites are located at Shaw Center, Ngee Ann City and Razers new headquarters in One-North.

Capitaland, TPG Telecom and NavInfo Datatech will also build a 5G-enabled Smart Estate at Science Park 1 and 2.

The project aims to test "vehicle-to-everything" technologies to develop cloud-based technologies Reduce network latency to improve the response time and stopping distance of autonomous vehicles. It also checks whether the data transfer capacity can be at least doubled to provide real-time alerts for traffic situations.

Those wishing to use the 5G infrastructure to develop and test new and innovative solutions can submit their use cases through the Smart Urban Co-Innovation Lab, CapitaLand said in a separate press release.

"These applications may include solutions that benefit from low latency and increased data rates of 5G, such as drones and augmented reality or virtual reality applications," said the developer.

In addition, the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) will partner with **M1** to launch the NTU Connected Smart Mobility Testbed to explore and test new 5G vehicle solutions, including autonomous vehicles and intelligent transport infrastructure.

"All equipment will be installed in shuttle buses and autonomous vehicles driving the NTU Smart Campus, enabling vehicle localization testing in a real-world environment," a joint press release said.

Industry partners are also invited to the testbed to investigate the integration of "vehicle-to-all" communication with autonomous vehicles, transport infrastructure and unmanned aerial vehicle systems, the press release said.

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IMDA already launched two 5G industry partnerships between PSA and Singtel and **M1** and the Science, Technology and Research Agency in June (A * STAR), JTC, known respectively Singtel.



These five 5G projects are worth \$ 40 million to support "the development of an open and inclusive 5G innovation ecosystem".

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