

Letter of Intent

Development of 5G in the Nordic countries

The Nordic region is one of the most innovative and digitalised regions in the world. With our mature digital infrastructure, high level of digital skills and ambitious national strategies for digital transformation in the public and private sectors, we have the potential to take a leading role in the next leap for wireless communications. The importance of 5G was acknowledged in the Nordic-Baltic ministerial declaration Digital North that was adopted in 2017.

As the development of fifth generation wireless systems (5G) breaks through, the Nordic countries will be at the forefront of that development to become world leaders in using 5G technology for the development and digitalisation of all sectors of society.

The deployment of 5G will require substantial investments as well as the appropriate regulatory framework. At political level, we commit to creating the conditions in the public sector for digitalisation and 5G to flourish. As Nordic prime ministers, we have agreed to the common vision of being the first and most integrated 5G region in the world. We want to create a common Nordic 5G space.

To achieve this goal, we will cooperate closely to set up a common action plan for early adoption of 5G technology across the Nordic region. The action plan will:

- Encourage the development of new testing facilities, including test beds;
- Ensure the technical coordination of 5G frequency bands within the region;
- Remove obstacles to expansion of the 5G network, in particular deployment of base stations and antennas; and
- Encourage and monitor the development of 5G, specifically for certain sectors:
 - Transport
 - Sustainable and climate-efficient transport solutions
 - Transport systems and connected vehicles
 - Remote-controlled airborne services ('drones')
 - Mission critical communications
 - Emergency services
 - Law enforcement

- Advanced automation in the manufacturing industry
 - Augmented reality for employees
 - Interconnected factories
 - Robust and low latency communications, e.g. for robot control

- Energy, environment, agriculture and aquaculture
 - Energy saving measures, smart grids, power management
 - Increased yield in food production
 - Detailed monitoring.

The development of 5G will be monitored and followed up by the Nordic Council of Ministers, facilitating implementation in cooperation with the Nordic governments, national digital authorities, and stakeholders from the ICT and telecom industries.

We ask the Nordic digitalisation ministers to take the lead in following up this declaration with the aim of ensuring that the Nordic region becomes the first and best interconnected 5G region in the world.

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