

THE WEEKLY VOICE

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Ottawa, Ontario, Quebec Getting Ready To Usher In 5G Future

OTTAWA: The governments of Canada, Ontario and Quebec are partnering with some of the world's digital heavyweights to usher in the next generation of wireless technology.

A \$400-million public-private investment will create a corridor of 5G wireless test beds through Canada's two largest provinces, aimed at giving companies a chance to experiment with new ideas and products that are only now becoming possible thanks to recent breakthroughs in telecommunication technology.

While many estimate it will take years before 5G is widely rolled out to the Canadian mass market, it's being billed as the wireless backbone to futuristic technologies including driverless cars, remotely controlled complex surgeries, and download speeds up to 100 times faster than today's 4G networks.

"5G is the gateway to the future and we are just on the brink of this technological revolution," Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains said Monday at a funding announcement in Ottawa.

The new project is called ENC-QOR - Evolution of Networked



Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains with Dominique Anglade, Quebec Deputy Premier and Minister of Economy, Science and Innovation; and Reza Moridi, Ontario Minister of Research, Innovation and Science, third from left, during an announcement on 5G technology in Ottawa on Monday. The Canadian Press/Justin Tang

Services through a Corridor in Quebec and Ontario for Research and Innovation - and will allow an estimated 1,000 small and medium-sized businesses to plug into an early 5G platform for research and development.

Ontario, Quebec and the federal government have each pledged about \$67 million, while the remaining \$200 million will come from five private-sector partners. Ericsson, Ciena Canada, Thales

Canada, IBM Canada and CGI will lead the public-private partnership, which is expected to "secure" more than 4,000 jobs, 1,800 of which will be specialized in 5G.

Karl Sasseville, a spokesman for Bains, clarified that those jobs are made up of existing positions within the five private-sector partners that will be repurposed for the project.

Borje Ekholm, CEO of Swed-

ish telecom giant Ericsson, said Canada is "leapfrogging" to the front of 5G technology with its commitment to wireless innovation. When people think of national infrastructure they often think of roads and streets, Ekholm said.

"We believe the future highways will all be digital," he said.

Ekholm said he expects the test-bed technology to be deployed later this year and become operational by early 2019.

The government estimates information and communications technology contributed \$76 billion to the country's gross domestic product in 2017.

One of the first looks at the potential of 5G technology came at the recent Pyeongchang Winter Games, where a test network powered self-driving vehicles, virtual reality content, and an app that allowed viewers to access multiple camera angles of events.

But these experiences weren't open to just anyone with a smartphone or tablet. Accessing the next generation wireless networks will require consumers to upgrade to a new device with updated hardware. - CP

New Selection Process To Bring In Parents



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about their applications, because need to do in this process", Hussien said.

For 2018, IRCC is using the new selection process that was introduced last year. The process gives all potential sponsors equal access to the application process and is said to be fairer than in past years, when applicants had to submit applications by courier and mail on a first come, first served basis.

This revised program aims to better inform potential sponsors

about their applications, because it ensures that only those sponsors who will be included in the annual allotment of PGP applications need to take the time to submit sponsorship applications.

Hussien said that "our actions are yielding results. Between 2011 and last year, we reduced by more than 80% the inventory of parents and grandparents applicants.

The minister also pointed out that immigrant families who are resident here or citizens could

also consider the Parent and Grandparent Super Visa, which allows holders to stay in Canada for up to two years on an initial visit, compared to six months for a regular visa.

"The improvements we have made to programs, such as the PGP, demonstrate our commitment to keeping families together. Through them, we will continue to help newcomers to integrate, build stronger ties and to contribute to the future of Canada," Hussien's letter said.

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39 Kidnapped Indians Killed By IS In Iraq

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were employed by an Iraqi company in Mosul.

They were taken hostage when the IS took control of Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq.

The workers were trying to leave Mosul when they were taken hostage. Sushma Swaraj also dismissed claims of Harjeet Massi, one of them who escaped from Mosul.

"He was not willing to tell me how he escaped," she said.

The minister said that she had concrete evidence that he was lying. Massi had escaped along with Bangladeshis with the help of a caterer with a fake name 'Ali', she said.

She said the details were revealed to her by Massi's employer and the caterer who helped him. In July 2017, Sushma Swaraj had said that she would not declare the 39 Indians dead without concrete proof or evidence.

'Equal Pay For Equal Work'

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absence.

The Changing Workplaces Review Final Report found that differential treatment based on part-time, casual, temporary contract or seasonal status was an unfair practice that affects one in four employees, particularly women, youth, older employees and minorities doing precarious work.

The province is also enhancing workplace enforcement, penalties and education to ensure all new employee rights under its plan for Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs are followed.