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Engineers prepare Test Beds for 5G technology

Posted on Monday, December 24, 2018

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Research students and academicians of various institutes are preparing test beds for the usage of 5G services that is expected to make an inroad in the country in the second phase. At the 12th edition of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) international conference on advanced networking and telecommunications (ANTS) held recently, the academia and the industry players tried to lay a roadmap for better usage of 5G.

Though Japan and Korea will be the initial users, India is likely to have the technology post Summer Olympics 2020, however the Engineers want to be ready with test beds for commercial deployment.

The conference organised by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indore, had the participation of several prominent professors, Engineers from universities across the world.

Speaking on the sidelines of the conference, Sudhir Dixit, fellow and evangelist, Basic Internet Foundation, Norway said that 5G services will use IT infrastructure rather than hardware infrastructure used in 3G and 4G networks. "In 5G, the focus will be on industry verticals than on consumers. Huge revenues will be generated by selling 5G services to industry verticals."

5G services would be used in providing services such as augmented reality, 3D teleconferencing, holography, robotics, etc.

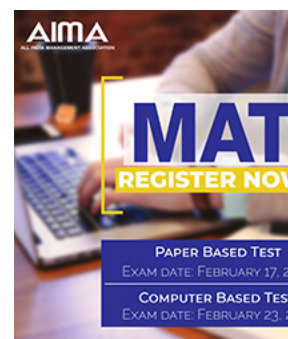
"5G will enable enterprises to move into new markets and build new revenue streams with radically new business models and use cases, including massive Internet of Things (IoT) applications. It will enable more secure transactions and expand the battery life of IoT devices by 10 times," said Subodh Ajare, chief architect, Cisco during one of the workshops conducted in the conference.

The demands for 5G in India are different from what it is in the West. "We (in India) do not need high mobility, but need a network that can penetrate through high density. Energy efficiency is yet another aspect that would be needed from 5G network," said Muneer Mohammad, IEEE Bangalore.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), earlier this year launched a three-year project titled 'Building an End-to-End 5G Test Bed' to advance 5G innovation and research in India. The budget of the project is around Rs 224 crores. The pilot project has been awarded to IIT Madras, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, Centre of Excellence in Wireless Technology (CEWiT), Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER) and IISc Bangalore. IIT Indore, IIT Bombay and IIT Mandi were later added to the project.

The goal of the project is to build a Test Bed that closely resembles a real-world 5G deployment. This Test Bed could become a basis for many commercial deployments. The Test Bed can be used by telecom operators, technology companies, academics and startups for R&D purposes.

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"There are various aspects of the project that the IITs would be working upon. For example, IIT adras is working on the network aspect; IIT Delhi and IIT Indore are working on the physical layer spect of building the Test Bed," said Vimal Bhatia, professor, IIT Indore.

Elaborating IIT Indore's role in the pilot project, Vimal said, "We are involved with prototyping the receiver architecture for 5G. We are working on the physical layer standard technology-NOMA (Non rthogonal Multiple Access) which is also a part of the later stages of the 4G technology."

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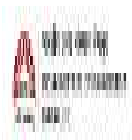
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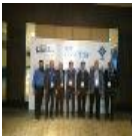
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