

Cooperation in High Technology: The Free State of Bavaria and the Czech Republic Launch the "5G Corridor Munich - Prague" Project

In the future, not only people and goods will cross the Bavarian-Czech border, but high-speed data exchange should be also ensured. This will be made possible by the close cooperation between Bavaria and Czechia in the development of fifth-generation (5G) high-speed mobile networks.

In 2020, the Bavarian State Chancellery and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic signed a joint declaration of intent on cooperation in the establishment of a 5G Corridor Munich – Prague in order to jointly drive the digital transformation across borders. On behalf of the Bavarian State Chancellery, the project lead is based at the German-Czech Chamber of Industry and Commerce. On the Bavarian side, the Scientific Coordination Office Bavaria-Québec/Alberta/International is supporting the project management.

At the virtual kick-off of the 5G Corridor Munich - Prague on February 3, 2021, the project manager Ms. Lenka Šolcová explained the goals and working methods of the project. The first priority will be to establish joint 5G-based application projects in the fields of eHealth, Connected Mobility, Industry 4.0, and Smart Regions. "Research corridor" and "infrastructure corridor" will thus go hand in hand. Researchers, enterprises, and mobile operators would work closely together to identify and elaborate the 5G use cases. The project team of the 5G Corridor Munich - Prague advises on funding and provides support in establishing contacts, as well as with application development.

The kick-off with more than 100 participants was already a first step towards the successful development and establishment of the bilateral research cooperation. Renowned experts from nine Bavarian and seven Czech universities and research institutions (including Fraunhofer IIS, Technical University Munich, and Czech Technical University Prague) presented their current 5G research projects and 5G testbeds and outlined innovative application scenarios for 5G technologies. Present stakeholders from governments, municipalities, hospitals and many more showed great interests in the bilateral cooperation. New cooperation opportunities were already emerging.

The 5G application area eHealth started on March 17, 2021 with a virtual workshop. It was the opportunity for the 17 participating scientists from Bavaria and Czechia to expand existing project groups and to initiate the establishment of new project groups. Especially in the fields of telemedicine and home care there is great potential for collaboration. Other thematic focal points included the cross-border exchange of medical data, educational programs, and smart devices such as hospital beds.

The workshop on Connected Mobility will be held in May 2021.