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b<>com becomes 5G test operator

b<>com's 5G experimentation platform will be deployed this summer. The objective: to carry out certain tests on the future 5G network's components and security in a telecom and IT environment. Innovation projects will be carried out by the IRT (Institute of Research and Technology) teams, but also by the IRT's partners, in the context of collaborative projects.

The leveling off of 4G solution sales and the release of the first prototypes involving new waveforms and large-scale multi-antennas encourage governments and organizations to develop 5G infrastructures and services. Four years away from commercial deployment, the first demonstrations presented at the latest Mobile World Congress in Barcelona appeared promising.

So projects focused on the new mobile-multimedia standard, the IoT and critical communications are booming. Proof that b<>com ranks high among European players is the fact that the ARCEP (independent French agency in charge of regulating telecommunications in France) has just granted the IRT the authorization to broadcast frequencies as part of the development of future 5G equipment. This opportunity allows the IRT to carry out its own research projects, as well as participate in nation- and Europe-wide projects.

A unique infrastructure in Europe

Built on **b<>com's** infrastructure, this test platform for cyber-security in telecom & IT environment permits the creation of a test environment dedicated to a project and isolated from other projects. Its user can then design and run test attack-and-penetration scenarios, but also tests simulating equipment breakdowns or function failures, spread of signal storms...

Its main features are:

- To test the components of communication networks above a cloud infrastructure potentially spread out over several nodes in Europe,
- To validate the security aspects of the SDN networks and of virtualized network functions at the core of the 5G architectures,
- To validate the architectures and configurations of network and security equipment prior to productization phases,
- To set up a complex network topology that combines physical and simulated equipment to verify scalability.

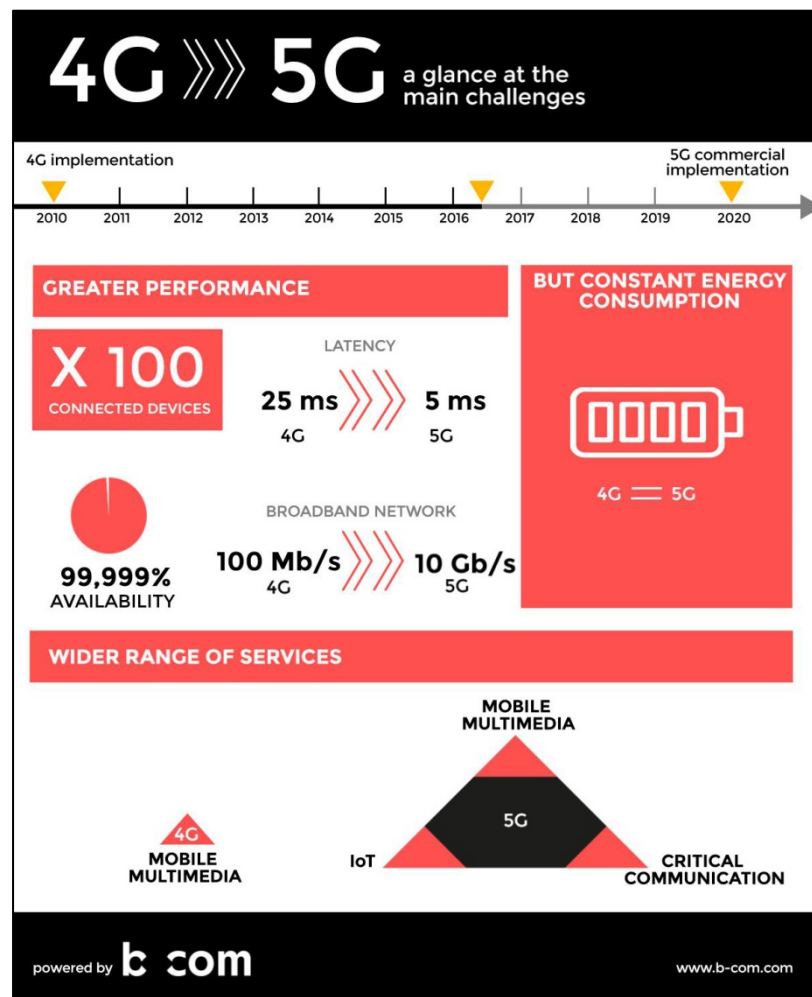
Michel Corriou, Networks and Security Director at b<>com, explains that *"with this platform, we are moving upstream in the innovation cycle, as the first commercial 5G services are planned for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. We are building an experimental network based on our developments, those of our partners, and elements generated by opensource communities like OpenAirInterface."*

5G mobile networks: a priority for Europe

b<>com *Secure* has been developed as part of the European 5G-ENSURE project led by the VTT research center in Finland and by Thales in France. The focus of 5G-ENSURE is realizing a vision for a secure, resilient and viable 5G network under the umbrella of the 5G Infrastructure Public Private Partnership (5G-PPP) in the Horizon 2020 Programme.

"5G will be the most critical building block of digital society. The European Commission invests in the 5G public-private partnership (5G-PPP) to develop full ecosystems and drive European leadership", said **Günther Oettinger, European Commissioner of the Digital Economy & Society** speaking at CeBIT 2016.

b<>com is already looking ahead to the evolutions of this ambitious European project by positioning itself in several so-called Phase 2 European project proposals for the 2017-2019 period regarding the Radio Access Network aspects, the core of the experimentation network and platform.



About b<>com

With its innovations, the Institute of Research and Technology (IRT) b<>com is taking part in the European digital transformation. Its 230 researchers develop tools, products, and services that make everyday life easier. They focus on two fields of research: Hypermedia (ultra-high definition images, 3D sound, smart content, virtual and augmented reality) and more agile ultra-high speed networks (cloud, cybersecurity, ultra-high speed mobile, network resilience, Internet of Things). Of the many fields of application for these technologies, e-health has allowed b<>com to participate in the digital revolution going on in medicine. Founded through a public/private partnership, the IRT gathers the best experts from industry and academia at its campus in Rennes, and at its sites in Lannion and Brest. www.b-com.com



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