



Largest 5G Tests Set out

China has established the world's largest 5G test field in the race to standardize mobile communications technology, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) said on March 3.

Industry giants, including Huawei Technologies and ZTE Corp, are participating in the test programs at the outdoor test site in Huairou District of Beijing.

The tests, set to take place between 2016 and 2018, include the three stages respectively of key technology verification, technological solution verification, and system verification, said Zhang Feng, chief engineer of the MIIT. The first stage, entailing verification of the feasibility of essential techniques, having been completed, the second stage of tests has begun.

China has started early preparations for the 5G network. The country established the IMT-2020 (5G) Promotion Group in February 2013 to coordinate efforts by mobile service operators, manufacturers, and research institutes.

Years of investment have put China in pole position to formulate the industry standard and reap the benefits of a network that provides much faster connectivity with lower energy consumption. China aims to commercialize 5G mobile networks as early as 2020.

From AR/VR and driverless cars, to the industrial Internet and smart cities, 5G is expected to support significantly faster mobile broadband speeds and increasingly extensive mobile data usage – as well as to enable the full potential of the Internet of Things.