

Feasibility study on development of coverage information for 5G deployments

Public consultation of the Berec

03 october 2019

TDF response

28 November 2019

TDF comments

TDF welcomes the possibility to provide comments to the Bercé on its project related to the development of coverage information for 5G deployment.

As pointed out by the consultation paper, the 5G is expected to be a disruptive technology, having the potential to profoundly transform many industrial sectors. Contrary to previous generation mobile networks, the 5G is not primarily intended to improve general communications on the consumer market but to transform vertical markets and permit many business innovations. In this respect, the Bercé diagnosis that connectivity requirements are likely to vary substantially across verticals is absolutely right, as well as the need to improve connectivity information.

As neutral infrastructure operator that offers solutions to its customers that outsource their connectivity needs in France - whether they are mobile network operators or vertical operators, TDF is in front line and interested in the success of the 5G deployment. In accordance with the Bercé initiative, TDF viewpoint is that accompanying verticals by providing extensive and reliable connectivity information is vital to accelerate the take-up of 5G.

More precisely, TDF considers that the Bercé should consider verticals information needs depending not only on the sector, but also on whether the activity is local or national. While the development of a national activity may occur at a middle/long term, making it difficult to define the exact information needs, local innovations (to modernize a factory, a hospital, etc.) based on the 5G technology are likely to emerge much more rapidly. Hence, whatever the sector, local needs may be much more concrete. Besides, most of the 5G pilots attempt to answer to local issues and are developed at a local level. Thus, to overcome the difficulty of describing the exact metrics a sector may need to develop 5G usage at this early stage, TDF recommendation is to consider in more details the need of verticals that operate at a local level.

Beyond the information related to coverage, TDF believes that it would be interesting to provide much more qualitative information to verticals industries:

- Details about available frequencies could be a selection criterion for verticals. Indeed, some use cases are extremely dependent on the frequencies deployed in a geographical area. These frequencies give an idea of the expected level of capacity and reliability of the network.

In this case, verticals could also be interested in knowing the available throughput over a geographical area.

- In addition, information on the network architecture could also help to understand the security and resilience mechanisms in place to meet critical needs. These elements can concern the level of network redundancy, latency, etc.

In short, in cases where verticals used subcontractors for the network part, there is a need for significant collaboration between actors with transparency on all the technical and operational elements contributing to the solution.

In any event, TDF warmly supports the Bercé initiative. Trying to develop a common approach across NRA to provide information to verticals is of primary importance to ensure the 5G success.



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