En bref

NUMÉRIQUE :

- Un nouveau programme (*Production-Linked Incentives*) pour inciter les entreprises à produire en Inde les composants électroniques haut de gamme utilisés dans les smartphones, les serveurs et les ordinateurs pourrait entrer en vigueur lors de la prochaine année fiscale (avril 2023) avec un budget compris entre 1,1 et 1,4 Md€.
- Gamestream, entreprise française spécialisée dans les solutions de streaming de jeux vidéos, a signé un partenariat stratégique sur 10 ans avec Reliance Jio, le leader en Inde dans le secteur des télécommunications.
- Certains acteurs du numérique en Inde craignent que le projet de loi sur la protection des données numériques personnelles (DPDB) entrave le développement des centres de données en Inde en autorisant les flux de données transfrontaliers et en relâchant ainsi les contraintes de localisation des données.
- La chambre de commerce indo-américaine émet également des réserves sur le nouveau projet de loi DPDB - les négociations pays par pays pour les flux transfrontaliers des données seront difficiles et chronophages.
- 14 sous-traitants chinois d'Apple ont reçu une autorisation préliminaire pour créer des coentreprises avec des partenaires indiens dans l'objectif de produire localement.

TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS:

- Tech Mahindra s'associe à Microsoft pour fournir des solutions 5G basées sur le *cloud computing*.
- L'année 2023 s'annonce chargée dans le secteur : entrée en vigueur de la nouvelle loi sur les télécommunications, déploiement des réseaux 5G, premières enchères pour l'octroi de fréquences pour l'internet par satellite et poursuite des difficultés financières pour l'opérateur Vodafone Idea (Vi).
- Ericcsson augmente sa production en Inde pour répondre à la demande d'équipements 5G, ce qui pourrait créer 2 000 emplois.

Revue de presse

1. NUMÉRIQUE

₹10-12kcr PLI Sops Soon for Hi-tech IT, Mobile Components

ET Bureau, 27/12/2022

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) is working on an incentive scheme, with a likely financial outlay of around ₹10,000 crore to ₹12,000 crore, to promote domestic manufacturing of high-end components that could go into products such as smartphones, servers and personal computers.

The objective of the components incentive scheme is to develop a complete ecosystem of electronics manufacturing in India, officials aware of the details of the plan told ET. The move may further help attract global majors such as Apple to deepen local production, say experts.

"The scheme may offer incentives on production of components as well as capital support for setting up production facilities. The final contours of the scheme are still to be finalised, but we are aiming to come out (with the policy) by next financial year (starting April 1)," an official said on the condition of anonymity.

The government has already indicated that it would be open to joint venture (JV) partnerships with the Chinese firms for high-tech components, which will enable the likes of Apple to further expand manufacturing in India. The incentive scheme for components will aid companies located in geographies such as Taiwan, Korea and Japan to relocate or set up new units here.

The components incentive scheme becomes even more important, primarily because an existing scheme for the promotion of manufacturing of electronic components and semiconductors (SPECS) with an outlay of ₹3,285 crore is coming to end by March 2023. SPECS was launched alongside the ₹41,000 crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for smartphones in April 2020, for a period of three years.

SPECS was aimed at promoting manufacturing of high-value-added items such as electronics components and subassemblies such as camera modules, vibrator motors, display assemblies and touch panels. The scheme also provides incentives for the manufacturing of capital goods of the scheme notified electronic items.

The plan has led to investments of around ₹12,000 crore so far, as per details shared with ET by the Indian Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA). The industry has been demanding that SPECS be extended for a further period of five years with a budgetary outlay of at least s₹10,000 crore to support component manufacturing.

According to the ICEA, given the massive dependency on China for finished products, especially IT hardware, it is impossible to create a relocation pathway to deepen global value chains in India without tier-2 and -3 manufacturers for finished products, subassemblies and components from India's neighbour.

The government is targeting electronics manufacturing worth $300 billion by 2026, of which $18 billion could be for components. The industry says it needs continuous support from the government because the disability of the Indian electronics system design and manufacturing sector as compared to other countries like Vietnam is still 10-14% on account of cost of finance, logistics and power, etc.

Officials said the government is aware that a successful ecosystem for electronics manufacturing can only be developed when the components are produced locally.

The intent of the government can be gauged from the fact that even the existing PLI schemes, like the one for IT hardware manufacturing, have a localisation schedule. To make it lucrative for component making firms, the government is open to giving selective approvals to Chinese firms also, if   are coming in with a joint venture with any Indian company.

Apart from China, the government wants to encourage joint ventures with firms from Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and Europe for high-tech electronics manufacturing.

The Centre, along with the industry, will soon start an exercise to identify potential Indian companies that can enter into electronics manufacturing through such ventures.

JioGames signs 10-year deal with Gamestream to launch cloud gaming platform in India

ETTelecom, 12/01/2023

NEW DELHI: Reliance Jio's JioGames has signed a 10-year strategic partnership with Gamestream to roll out cloud gaming platform JioGamesCloud in India.

Gamestream is a Paris, France-based provider of white-label cloud gaming solutions. Its partnership with JioGames will provide 1.4 billion Indians with access to cloud gaming anywhere, anytime in India.

Notably, Jio is rolling out its 5G standalone (SA) network in India, and has covered 101 cities with its 5G services to date. Second-ranked Bharti Airtel, meanwhile, is deploying a non-standalone (NSA) 5G network.

The robust 5G SA infrastructure that Jio has built across the country will support the growth of cloud gaming in India. Additionally, JioGamesCloud can be accessed on multiple devices.

Gamestream will enrich JioGamesCloud's comprehensive library with over 100 for families and casual gamers alike, with additional games added each month.

JioGamesCloud, however, is currently live in its public beta. At the moment, it is available free of cost for a limited period of time Jio Set Top Box, Android smartphones, and select web browsers.

"To access JioGamesCloud, you need to subscribe to a monthly plan. The Beta version is currently free," According to the FAQ section of JioGamesCloud website.

Some of the high-end gaming titles available on the JioGamesCloud website for web browser are Saints Row: The Third, Saints Row IV, and GRIP, among others.

Cloud gaming is not dependent on high-end hardware resources, and hence, can be accessed on smartphones, tablets, and web browsers.

Data centre companies call for reciprocity in data flow

ETtech, 17/01/2023

Technology infrastructure companies that are building digital storage facilities or data centres in India are petitioning the government to mandate local storage of user data as well as "reciprocity" in cross-border data flows, industry executives told ET.

STT Global Data Centre and Yotta Infrastructure claimed that ancillary industries such as power, real estate and renewable energy, which are reliant on the growth of the data centre industry, will also be adversely impacted by free cross-border data flow.

In their submissions, these companies asked for Indian users' data to be transferred only to countries that allow their citizens' data to be sent to India.

And, that a copy of data stored overseas be also kept in India. "Reciprocity of data should be allowed," Darshan Hiranandani, chairman of Yotta Infrastructure, told ET.

STT Global Data Centre — the largest data centre chain in India with 33% market share — also said that the jobs and investments in the sector will be severely hurt by the new norms in the draft of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 Bill.

Expansion plans

Earlier this month, at a meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham), as many as 50 members gave their inputs to the industry association on the data bill.

"Indian users' data should be permitted to go to only those countries where data of their citizens is allowed to come to India. Also data should go to only those countries where Indian consumers or court orders do not have to go through overseas courts for enforcement. Third, a copy of the user data going abroad should be kept in India," Hiranandani added.

The latest draft of the data bill has mooted a concept of "trusted geographies" where the government will prescribe a country or territory onto a "whitelist", to which personal data may be transferred from India.

Yotta currently operates two data centres in India and plans to deliver about 1,000 MW of capacity by 2030, with a planned investment of over Rs 60,000 crore.

Another major data centre NTT had recently announced a budget of $2 billion towards India investments till 2024.

Shekhar Sharma, CEO, NTT Global Data Centers & CI and NTT Communications, India said that while the guidelines (draft DPDP Bill) seem similar to the European GDPR norms, his company was waiting for more details to be published.

"Our approach and strategies will be reviewed and carried out in collaboration with all stakeholders and will be aligned with the final guidelines," he added, noting that "there was very strong domestic demand (for data storage) with 5G being rolled out extensively and the sharp increase in cloud adoption and digital transformation of businesses across different verticals".

In the past year, several companies like Equinix and ST Telemedia have announced expansion of their data centre capacities in India.

Earlier this month, Digital Edge Singapore, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund and AGP Investco said that they would invest in India, with the first project being a $2 billion data centre in Mumbai, work on which will start in early 2023.

Industry experts are of the view that the relaxation of data localisation norms might adversely impact expansion of India's data centre market.

Local data centres "might not look very attractive if there are already established data centres in trusted geographies", said Sharath Srinivasamurthy, associate vice president at IDC India.

According to IDC, India's public cloud services (PCS) market totalled $2.8 billion for the first half of 2022 and is expected to reach $13 billion by 2026, growing at a CAGR of 23.1% during 2021-26.

AdaniConneX, a joint venture between Adani Enterprises and EdgeConneX, which announced the opening of a data centre in Chennai in November 2022, did not respond to ET's queries on its position on the draft data bill.

Telcos oppose data transfer

The Indian internet industry has largely welcomed the government's revised stance on allowing cross-border data flow while doing away

with hard data localisation mandated in the previous versions of the data bill.

However, others such as India's largest telecommunication companies Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel as well as digital payments major Paytm are opposing the Centre's move to allow transfer of personal data of Indians to "trusted geographies".

ET reported on January 6 that these companies are asking for data of Indians to be stored within the country in a stance counter to the larger industry, especially the foreign players.

They have argued that Indian companies would be unwilling to invest in expensive data centres locally if the government allows cross-border data transfers of Indians.

"There would be no business case to build state-of-the-art digital storage infrastructure in such a situation and existing investments will also go waste," a source aware of Jio's thinking on the matter had told ET.

Airtel too has similar concerns against cross-border transfer of data of Indians, according to the sources.

They pointed out that any move by the government to allow cross-border transfers of personal data of Indians could put on hold billions of dollars of potential investments in state-of-the-art data centres and in building India's digital infrastructure.

The last date for the public consultation on the draft data bill was January 2.

Equal opportunity

Yotta's Hiranandani, who chairs the data centre council in ASSOCHAM, said there should be a "level playing field".

Providers, who are storing data in India and complying with Indian law, should be considered on par with other players who are catering to Indian users. "The arms of the law should be able to reach other countries as well in terms of users' data," he said.

Lalit Khanna, general counsel of ST Telemedia Global Data Centre, said the government "should promote and incentivise the investment of data centres and allied sectors so that they could further expand to tier 2 and tier 3 cities".

"We currently supply more than 215 MW IT load via 21 carrier-neutral facilities with carrier-dense interconnections across nine significant locations and hold a total floor area of 3.8 million square feet," he added.

Pointing out that the 2019 version of the PDP Bill had supported data localisation and that several other countries also supported it, Khanna said that if the Indian government allows cross-border data flow, it should "mandate the storage of at least one copy of the entire data in India".

The "overriding provision of the 2022 Bill can lead to ambiguities and conflicts", he said.

More so, as the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill when enacted will "supersede any sectoral regulation (and) will influence rules made by entities like the RBI that have a direct bearing on personal data," he added.

USIBC: Country-wise talks to pick trusted geographies slow

ETtech, 19/01/2023

Undertaking country-by-country negotiations for drawing up the whitelist of trusted geographies as proposed in the draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022, will be time-consuming, Jay Gullish, Executive Director for Digital Economy in the US India Business Council, told ET.

India could instead consider creating different parameters and rules for different countries. It could instead consider dealing with economic groupings such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), utilize

members of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) System, or another form of private sector data privacy certification that companies can join to demonstrate compliance with internationally recognized data privacy protections, he said.

"The DPDP Bill clearly shifted the debate from a very broad, regulatory heavy, and prescriptive regime to a narrow, more open, light-touch approach blending elements of GDPR, Singapore, and other markets," Gullish said.

USIBC has shared with the government its ideas to improve the bill, he said.

A lot of countries have been looking at the European model of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and while there are many positives embedded within GDPR, the regulations have also hurt Europe's innovation and competitiveness, and sometimes negatively impacted consumers, he said.

For example, many American local news, entertainment, and radio sites don't connect to Europe because of GDPR.

As a result, European companies and consumers lack access to and understanding of local information and market trends. "How can you figure out what's trending, popular or selling in a market where you don't have access to local information?" he questioned.

This impacts all sorts of companies including consumer products, fashion, tourism and other companies that would benefit from local information, he said.

Concerns with the bill

There are a lot of technical issues that still need to be worked out, he said. Privacy regulation is highly technical, and the USIBC believes that an independent, technocratic regulator would be best able to develop these detailed rules, along with a clear public, multi-stakeholder approach to rulemaking.

Currently, there is a Data Protection Board that will manage grievances alongside a second yet-to-be defined regulatory body within the Government that would conduct other forms of clarification, rulemaking, FAQs, updates, etc.

"We welcome the overall approach to cross border data flows, but there are elements that could be enhanced to reduce potential regulatory burden," he said.

First is the concept of a whitelist of countries where data storage and flows are permissible.

"India is a global market, and Indian digital companies are global, so managing the whitelist process could be quite complicated depending on how the concept is developed and implemented," he said.

Alternatively, the Government could recognize commonplace private agreements covering data processing such as standard contractual clauses (SCC), binding corporate rules (BCR), and other grounds embedded into GDPR and widely utilised current contracts for data processing, outsourcing, and information technology (IT) enabled services (ITeS), including many Indian startups and large international Indian companies.

This approach could significantly streamline the transition to the DPDP, while minimizing costs, improving compliance, and benefiting the competitiveness of India's IT sector, data-focused companies, and the vast Indian community of software-as-a-service (SaaS) providers, he said.

The Indian Government could also consider aligning with the recently endorsed Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Model Contractual Clauses for Cross Border Data Flows that guide obligations for cross-border data transfers for controllers and processors, while ensuring adequate safeguards for the transferred data are held by the recipient party.

Lack of consistency

Also, consistency with other sector laws and regulations is critical as some dozen GoI ministries, regulators, and agencies have approved and put into force laws and regulations that govern personal data, cross border transfers of data, and requirements to localize personal and business data within the borders of India.

These overlapping rules cover financial data, health data, geospatial data, scientific data, and corporate data, among others, and create a complex, overlapping, and costly array of rules – all of which undermine ease of doing business goals set by the Government and the objectives of Digital India.

"Thus, we suggest clarity around how, and in which cases, the DPDP does or does not supersede these sector specific rules," he said.

The bill should also include a clear timeframe—perhaps two to three years— which provides time to develop technical rules and plan for and implement changes, which might require time-consuming and extensive system and process updates, he said.

Impact on data centres

Data centers are foundational infrastructure, and there is always a need for data centers locally as companies, customers and users want easy, quick, and reliable access to data. For example, Singapore with some six million people has nearly 50 data centers versus a handful in most Indian cities. "Limiting cross-border data transfers isn't a necessary or effective approach to promote investment into Indian data centers," Gullish told ET.

India is a rapidly expanding consumer market, and investment into new data centers will naturally develop as the consumer demand for digital services increases and both foreign and domestic companies seek to minimize latency and provide the best customer experience.

"To achieve this, some of the IT infrastructure will have to physically be in India. The concern that there will be no data centers in India is overblown," he said.

Success in attracting data centers should focus on favourable policies and cost-effectiveness, he added.

Allowing a greater flow of data across borders will promote India's continued digital transformation and accelerate, not inhibit, the development of indigenous Indian IT services capacity, he opined.

"Our members strongly support cross border data flows, but that is also consistent with attracting data center investments. Light touch regulation, ease-of-doing business, and a green data ecosystem will be more effective than mandates, limits on data flows, and other requirements," he explained.

14 Chinese Suppliers to Apple Get Nod to Make in India Via JV Route

ETBureau, 19/01/2023

The government has given preliminary clearances to several of Apple's Chinese suppliers, allowing them to form joint ventures with Indian companies to set up facilities here, as it seeks to expand the local value chain in iPhone and electronics manufacturing.

Fourteen companies from a list of 17 Chinese suppliers that had approached the government have received the initial clearance, officials aware of the matter said. These companies, which include Luxshare, Sunny Optical, Han's Laser Technology, YUTO Packaging Technology, Strong, Salcomp and Boson, supply components to other smartphone and electronics brands as well.

The government has clearly stated that these Chinese firms would not be allowed to set up their wholly owned entities in India and that they must form JVs with local companies, the officials said. The final approvals to start manufacturing

will be given at a later stage, after the JVs are formed.

Apple did not respond to an email seeking comment about the Indian government's decision.

"We want Indian champions to emerge in the supply chain and that will happen when Chinese majors partner with local firms. Full due diligence will be done while giving approval so that the interest of India is not hurt," a government official told ET.

The main reason for the government to make this decision was the realisation that local value addition must rise for self-sufficiency in electronics manufacturing, the official said.

Without the participation of Chinese companies, it would be extremely difficult and time-consuming to develop a manufacturing ecosystem for Apple products in India. "The importance of expertise is necessary, and China is the main link in the global electronics manufacturing ecosystem," said a second official. "China has been Apple's mother factory and if the success can be replicated here, the suppliers have to come."

The local value addition in iPhone manufacturing is currently around 18%, and with the partners coming in, that could likely go up to 50%, an industry executive told ET.

For example, Luxshare Precision is one of the top contract manufacturers for the US company and makes Apple Watches, AirPods and iPhones. Sunny Optical makes camera lenses for iPhones. In May 2020, Luxshare had signed a deal with the Tamil Nadu government to take over the shuttered Motorola phone manufacturing unit in the state and invest around Rs 750 crore. The central government has yet to clear the proposal. ET reported in its October 28 edition that the Tamil Nadu government was urging the Centre to hasten the approval.

An industry executive said the Chinese suppliers were already scouting for partners in India and were in initial talks with as many as 50 local companies, including the likes of the Tata Group, Lava International and TI India. On October 22, ET reported Lava was in advanced talks for a joint venture with Shanghai-based Huaqin Technology, the world's largest original design manufacturer for mobiles and tablets.

In the past, the government had rejected proposals from several Chinese component suppliers, primarily of smartphone maker Vivo, that wanted to enter India with a 100% stake.

Apple currently assembles iPhones in India through three Taiwanese contract manufacturers: Foxconn, Wistron and Pegatron. All three have approvals under the government's production-linked incentive scheme for smartphones.

2. Télécommunications

Tech Mahindra, Microsoft team on 5G core

LightReading, 12/01/2023

NEW DELHI – Tech Mahindra, a leading provider of digital transformation, consulting, and business re-engineering services and solutions, and Microsoft, have announced a strategic collaboration to enable cloud-powered 5G core

==network modernization for telecom operators globally.== The 5G core network transformation will help telecom operators to develop 5G core use cases and meet their customers' growing technological (Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), IoT (Internet of Things), and edge computing) requirements. It will further enable them to modernize, optimize, and secure business operations and develop green networks with reduced costs and a faster time to market.

As a part of the collaboration, Tech Mahindra will provide its talent expertise, comprehensive solutions, and managed services offerings like "Network Cloudification as a Service" and AIOps to telecom operators for their 5G Core networks. The modernization of network core systems and operations powered by AIOps will enable operators to deploy and manage their 5G Core networks and leverage the power of the cloud to deliver new and innovative services to their customers quickly and easily. AIOps will help operators combine big data and machine learning to automate network operations processes, including event correlation and anomaly detection, predicting fault and performance issues, thereby enabling self-serving network operations.

CP Gurnani, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Tech Mahindra, said, "Today, it is critical to leverage next-gen technologies to build relevant and resilient services and solutions for customers across the globe. At Tech Mahindra, we are well-positioned to help telecom operators realize the full potential of their networks and provide innovative and agile services to their customers while also helping them meet their ESG commitments. Our collaboration with Microsoft will further strengthen our service portfolio by combining our deep expertise across the telecom industry with Microsoft Cloud. Further to this collaboration, Tech Mahindra and Microsoft will work together to help telecom operators simplify and transform their operations in order to build green and secure networks by leveraging the power of cloud technologies."

Anant Maheshwari, President, Microsoft India, said, "Harnessing the power of Microsoft Azure, telecom operators can provide more flexibility and scalability, save infrastructure cost, use AI to automate operations, and differentiate their customer offerings. The collaboration between Tech Mahindra and Microsoft will help our customers build green and secured networks with seamless experiences across the Microsoft cloud and the operator's network."

==Tech Mahindra will leverage the Microsoft cloud for its Sustainability solution iSustain== to measure and monitor KPIs across all three aspects of E, S & G. iSustain will help operators address the challenge of measuring and reducing carbon emissions from the networks while meeting demands of the countless energy intense digital technologies, from AR / VR to IoT. In addition, Tech Mahindra will further enhance the security posture of the operator's network and operations powered by SenTindra, a cloud-based virtual security operations center developed on Microsoft Sentinel. SenTindra platform offers 300+ scenarios and workflows to support telecom operators' cloud visibility, monitoring, and orchestration requirements, making the networks secure and free from downtime.

The partnership is in line with Tech Mahindra's NXT.NOWTM framework, which aims to enhance the 'Human Centric Experience', Tech Mahindra focuses on investing in emerging technologies and solutions that enable digital transformation and meet the evolving needs of the customer.

What 2023 holds in store for telecom in India

LightReading, 16/01/2023

Last year was a significant one for India's telecom sector. Besides launching 5G technology, India witnessed proposals for ==new telecom legislation – the Draft Telecom Bill 2022 – to replace the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885==, the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act of 1950 and the

Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1933. The bill is likely to become a law this year.

Brokerage firm CLSA reckons India's telecom sector recorded sales growth of 14% year-over-year in 2022 thanks to rising data adoption and an increase in tariffs. This trend is likely to continue this year as well.

Growing 5G ecosystem

India's 5G ecosystem is expected to grow in 2023, with service providers Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel currently in the middle of a massive 5G rollout. While Jio has launched 5G in more than 100 cities, Airtel's 5G service is available in around 30. Airtel claimed to have acquired more than 1 million customers within a month of launching 5G services.

Even as the 5G ecosystem continues to grow, however, neither telco has yet announced any 5G-specific tariffs. Instead, they have been offering 5G services at 4G rates – although an update on 5G pricing is expected.

Meanwhile, it remains unclear when Vodafone Idea and Government-owned BSNL will join their rivals in the 5G market. Vodafone Idea's poor financial health makes any 5G push difficult and BSNL has not even started to offer 4G services. Based on recent developments, it seems unlikely to launch 4G before the second half of this year.

Linked to this is the issue of 5G for enterprises, including 5G private networks. The adoption of 5G services by enterprise customers is likely to pick up this year in several industries. The danger is that an economic recession plays spoilsport, which means companies will want to be doubly sure of the return on investment before spending on new technology.

Several Indian companies, including Capgemini, GMR, Tata Communications, Tata Power, Tejas Networks (part of Tata Group) and Infosys, among others, have applied for spectrum from the government for 5G private networks. This process is likely to gain momentum this year.

Auction of satellite spectrum

Another major development this year is likely to be the arrival of satellite Internet services. The spectrum auction for satellite services is expected to take place later in 2023, with service launches happening by the end of the year. India's telecom regulator has said India will probably be the first country to auction satellite spectrum.

What lies ahead for Vodafone Idea?

This is going to be a decisive year for Vodafone Idea, as the government, which had initially offered to take a stake in the company in exchange for pending loans, is now demanding that the company's investors, Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group, should invest more funds in the company before the government does. In the past, both companies have said they are not interested in making any further investments in India. The deadlock between the government and the companies has not helped Vodafone Idea, which continues to lose customers and struggle to compete against other service providers.

Ericsson scales up production in India

LightReading, 19/12/2022

STOCKHOLM – Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC) today announced it is scaling up the production capacity and operations with its partner Jabil in Pune to meet the needs of 5G network deployments in India. Ericsson, the first telecom vendor to set up manufacturing in India in 1994, manufactures equipment with Jabil that includes 4G and 5G radios, RAN Compute as well as microwave products.

The production ramp-up will expand operations with high-technology production and will also generate employment for around 2,000 people in Pune, India. To increase flexibility and speed in bringing products into the market, Ericsson India is also establishing a technology center. This will focus on new product introduction and

production engineering to secure high-quality standards, testing/integration, and supply preparations on early-phase products, as well as operational support to ensure efficient 5G development and deployment in India.

Ericsson's ultra-lightweight, Massive MIMO antenna integrated radios AIR 3219 and AIR 3268 will be produced there initially to support the 5G deployments. Ericsson will also work with local ecosystem partners to support its 5G production in India.

Commercial launches of 5G networks are underway in the country with deployments having commenced following the spectrum auctions in July. Bharti Airtel (Airtel) and Jio, India's premier communications solutions providers, have selected Ericsson as their partner to deploy 5G networks in the country.

With increasing availability and affordability of 5G smartphones, along with rapid adoption of smartphones in urban and rural areas, 5G subscriptions in the India region are expected to rapidly increase to reach around 690 million by the end of 2028, according to the Ericsson Mobility Report, November 2022 edition.