NTIA's Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and Department of Defense Select 5G Challenge Contestants from Early-Bird Entries

NTIA, Office of Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Today, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Institute for Telecommunication Sciences (ITS), in Boulder, Colo., in collaboration with the Department of Defense (DoD), announced [5G Challenge](#) contestants selected from Early-Bird entries. This prize competition aims to accelerate the adoption of open interfaces, interoperable components, and multi-vendor solutions toward the development of an open 5G ecosystem.

After evaluating Early-Bird white papers, the 5G Challenge selected Rakuten Mobile USA's Central Unit (CU) and Distributed Unit (DU) for interoperability testing with the 5G Challenge host lab, CableLabs.

The [5G Challenge Preliminary Event: RAN Subsystem Interoperability](#) remains open for applications through May 5, 2022. The 5G Challenge will accept up to 8 additional subsystems. Applicants must submit their application on [Challenge.gov](#).

In this 2022 first-year 5G Challenge Preliminary Event, ITS will award part of the total $3 million prize purse to contestants who submit winning hardware and/or software solutions for one or more of these 5G network subsystems:

DU; CU; and Radio Unit (RU). The rules, location, and details of the second-year event will be released in 2023.

ITS, the Nation's Spectrum and Communications Lab, supports the Department of Defense 5G Initiative through a combination of its subject matter experts in 5G and its research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) laboratory infrastructure in Boulder, Colorado, including the Advanced Communications Test Site at the Table Mountain Radio Quiet Zone.