

TIM, Fastweb and Huawei switch on the region's first 5G

Deployment of the 5G network for the Bari and Matera's coverage plan starts

Matera, 5 March 2018 - The BariMatera5G project leaves the lab and arrives in the region early with respect to the time frame given at its launch, expected by the end of March. TIM, Fastweb and Huawei switched on today the first 5G antenna in Matera, in Via Carlo Levi, as part of the testing promoted by the Ministry of Economic Development. Thanks to this, the cities of Bari and Matera will be among the first areas in the world to be covered by the new technology.

The 5G data connection, implemented through the use of 3.7-3.8 GHz frequency bands made available by the Ministry of Economic Development, represents the first installation of the project's network development plan, which expects to achieve 75% coverage of the two cities' testing area by 2018.

The enormous potential of 5G, which reached record speeds of 3 gigabits per second and very short radio latency times in the range of two milliseconds during lab tests in January 2018, was also confirmed in the field.

Specifically, radio equipment fitted with "Massive-MIMO" technology, namely an antenna able to manage dozens of incoming and outgoing radio signals simultaneously and dynamically adapt to the position of individual users and the traffic demand, has been installed in Matera. The antenna developed by Huawei therefore guarantees excellent characteristics for the development of advanced 5G applications.

BariMatera5G is the project with which TIM, Fastweb and Huawei jointly won the MiSE call to tenders for the trials of the new 5G technology in the two cities. By means of an investment of more than EUR 60 million over 4 years, Bari and Matera will be among the first "5G cities" in Europe, in which innovative services in sectors like healthcare, industry 4.0, tourism, culture, the automotive industry and public security will be tested. The project involves, in addition to the three lead companies, 52 partners of excellence, including 7 universities and research centres, 34 large corporations and 11 public authorities. The 5G network set up in Bari and Matera will allow a transmission capacity ten times greater than that of 4G and the trials will involve 70 use cases, bringing about a radical transformation of the territories involved.

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