

Telecom Infra Project Response to Public Consultation on the BEREC Work Programme 2022

The Telecom Infra Project (TIP) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the BEREC Work Programme 2022. We particularly applaud the recognition in the work programme that Open RAN is considered a “logical next step in the technological development of communications networks.”

In this response, we outline our support for BEREC’s upcoming focus and workshop on Open RAN and encourage European regulators to discuss the role that open and disaggregated technologies can and will play in ensuring fast, secure, reliable and ubiquitous connectivity across the EU, including, as recognized in the report, infrastructure deployment cost reduction. Simultaneously TIP would like to express its readiness to support the 5G Value Chain report preparation and consultation by presenting the role of Open RAN solutions for connectivity business models and the ICT ecosystem.

Open and Disaggregated Network Architectures Provide Operators with Flexibility and Stimulate Competition

Open network architectures are designed to permit operators to disaggregate traditional components of their networks, such as separating a mobile “base station” into its constituent functions. Disaggregating network infrastructure into smaller elements, each connected across standards-based interfaces, provides operators with flexibility as they deploy their networks. This is particularly important as 5G networks are seeing ever-greater amounts of network technology being shifted either from the network core closer to the edge, or vice-versa, facilitating performance improvements in lower latency and lower energy consumption, among other benefits.

By using standards-based interfaces and specifications from groups like 3GPP or the O-RAN Alliance, and by adhering to productization, testing, validation, and delivery requirements from TIP, the result is a more competitive ecosystem that provides operators with flexibility to mix-and-match equipment from different vendors.

Open and Disaggregated Technologies in Europe

For Europe to lead in the digital economy it needs to scale up its traditional telecommunications infrastructure. The current highly concentrated telecoms market has enabled wide deployment of mobile networks and wireless

connectivity. However, it has also resulted in certain rigidities in telecom equipment markets and in certain cases a lack of interoperability and lack of diversification in the market, which impose costs on mobile network operators (MNOs).

Current telecommunications network infrastructure requires significant upgrades to keep up with increasing network demand which will be essential in realizing the objectives – both on connectivity but also on other digital priorities like AI, public sector digital transformation and digital upskilling.

Report on the 5G Value Chain

TIP welcomes the recognition in the Work Programme that “new 5G technologies promise multiple opportunities such as network slicing, software virtualisation, disaggregated and interoperable products leading to multi-vendor solutions.” We agree that it is important to study the impact of the anticipated changes on the entire 5G value chain i.e. both supply and demand.

Workshop on Open RAN

TIP therefore strongly supports the proposed workshop to identify unanswered or uncertain issues about Open RAN. We look forward to providing information and supporting materials on Open RAN and other open, disaggregated telecoms technologies. We would also ask for a speaking slot to actively participate in the workshop with BEREC Working Group representatives and the other experts invited.

About the Telecom Infra Project

Launched in 2016, TIP is a community of diverse participants that includes hundreds of telecom companies, from hardware manufacturers and software makers to mobile network operators, edge service providers, system integrators, start-ups and many others involved in the telecommunications supply chain. TIP and its participants work together to design, build, test, and deploy end-to-end solutions that are open, disaggregated, and standards-based. Hundreds of participant companies and institutions from around the world and from all backgrounds have come together at TIP to build a more vibrant, collaborative telecom ecosystem that delivers solutions.

TIP has a heavy presence in Europe, with participant companies driving initiatives at both member state and European levels. Our European members include Telefonica, BT, Orange, Deutsche Telekom, Vodafone, European Space Agency, Telenor, Cork Institute of Technology, Ghent University-IMEC, Schneider Electric and SNCF, among others.

TIP looks forward to supporting BEREC’s initiatives on digital principles and together creating a fast, reliable secure and ubiquitous connectivity ecosystem.

Yours sincerely,

TIP Executive Team

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