

New Technologies, New Opportunities: Introducing 5G Thursday 23rd July 2020

Questions and Answers

Q: I've seen a lot about the automated factories using existing connectivity - assume that 5G will accelerate this and is it practical?

ZG: Many automated factories today depend on wired connections for machines of proprietary wireless technologies as Wi-Fi may be unsuitable. What 5G will allow is to eventually get rid of wires in environments where high speed connectivity, low latency, guaranteed timings, etc. are necessary. It will also be a cheaper alternative that satisfies many requirements that requires proprietary wireless technology today. This will bring the costs down and provide the flexibility to move machines if required, without the worry of rewiring ethernet cables. So it is expected that 5G will accelerate factory automation.

Q: Do you have an opinion on what the biggest impact 5G could have to my business? Are there things I should be doing now?

ZG: Not sure of the answer as it depends on the business.

Q: How can the Combined Authority and CW stimulate local trials of 5G and Autonomous Vehicles

CG: In relation to autonomous vehicle trials, obviously we are developing the CAM which will be the largest autonomous public transport system developed in the uk, but Connecting Cambridgeshire with Smart Cambridge is undertaking autonomous pod trials and I would direct you to this link:

<https://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/smart-places/smart-cambridge/autonomous-vehicles/#:~:text=In%20February%202018%2C%20Smart%20Cambridge%2C%20led%20by%20Cambridgeshire,the%20southern%20section%20of%20the%20existing%20guided%20>

Q: Does the combined authority have plans for a project similar to MK:5G which is encouraging businesses to bring forward applications for 5G and IoT innovations?

CG: In relation to 5G networks, Connecting Cambridgeshire are the lead within our region for this and I would direct you to the following Link: <https://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/5g/>