Short Reports

Orange and NTT Sign Strategic R&D Framework Agreement to Accelerate Digital and Network Transformation in 5G, AI, IoT Cybersecurity and Beyond

1. Introduction

Orange and NTT signed a strategic research and development (R&D) framework agreement up to 2022 to mutualize research findings in several key domains including fifth-generation mobile communications (5G), network transformation, artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), cybersecurity, cloud services, smart cities, sports, tourism, and culture.

Both organizations believe that greater alignment and cooperation in R&D topics will accelerate digital and network transformation and lead to more innovation and the development of new products and services that can be leveraged across the Asia Pacific region covered by NTT, and Orange's unique geographical reach across Europe and Africa.

Stéphane Richard, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Orange Group, commented: "As Europe embarks on its own 5G journey, our collaboration with NTT will be very precious. Both parties share a commitment to continuous learning and cultural exchange, which I fundamentally believe is essential in today's global environment. The mutualization of our respective research learnings will enable us to identify and develop better services for customers in our respective regions and support the development of our multinational business customers internationally."

Jun Sawada, CEO, NTT Group, commented: "As 'Your Value Partner,' NTT Group will aim to resolve social issues by means of advancing digital transformation through its business activities by utilizing its various management resources and capabilities such

as R&D, ICT (information and communication technology) infrastructure, and personnel, while also collaborating with its partners. Orange is one of the most innovative and important players to cooperate closely with in various ways to advance AI, IoT, and 5G. With this agreement, we will be able to enhance our capabilities and accelerate digital transformation in various industries, cities, sports, and international events worldwide."

2. Cooperation areas

The agreement, which may be extended to other areas in the future, covers cooperation in several areas:
- 5G and network technology and transformation: 5G, LoRa,* SDN (software-defined networking), NFV (network functions virtualization) organization, software asset management, identity and access management, and open ecosystems by using open and white box technologies
- IoT: connected value chain with massive devices including connected vehicles, cellular drones, machine to machine, and smart city automation
- AI: use cases for telecom AI, Orange Djingo
- Cybersecurity for telecom, cloud, disaster prevention, and integration services
- Global and cultural events by using immersive communication technology, tourism, and corporate social responsibility
- Digital lifestyle innovation: healthcare, education,

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* LoRa: A long-range digital wireless communication technology for low power wide area networks.

connected devices, augmented reality/virtual reality, payment/finance, carrier billing, and consumer experience

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