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5G rollout in China set to accelerate (source:CGTN, Southern Financial Network)

The number of 5G mobile users in China had reached 428 million by the end of May, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), adding that the country had also launched 1.7 million 5G base stations.

According to the MIIT, China's 5G network has now covered all prefecture-level cities and county towns and 92 percent of towns and townships, with more than 12 5G base stations per 10,000 people.

In addition, China's 5G traffic also accounted for 27.2 percent of the country's total mobile traffic, with a year-on-year increase of 19.1 percentage points, it said.

5G implications boost digital economy

The ministry also mentioned that improved network infrastructure had laid a solid foundation for the development of the digital economy, as the 5G technology has been widely applied in all walks of life and boosted the digital transformation of the manufacturing industry.

Covering 40 sectors of the national economy, 5G has been widely used in over 200 smart mines, more than 1,000 smart factories, over 180 smart power grids, 89 ports and more than 600 hospital-related projects across the country.

For the next step, the MIIT is committed to further consolidating the 5G industrial foundations, advancing 5G network construction and promoting the development of 5G applications.

5G development in China

The next phase of 5G development is to focus on deepening industry applications and commercialization. This year's government work report clearly proposes to "promote the large-scale application of 5G". To this end,

Shanghai, Jiangsu, Fujian, Yunnan, Shanxi, Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi, Henan, Shaanxi and many other places have introduced targeted policies this year to promote the 5G scale-up.

Undoubtedly, speeding up the large-scale application of 5G is a key initiative to help the digital transformation of various industries and bring in momentum for high-quality economic and social development.MIIT research stressed to enhance the network support capacity, adhere to the principle of moderate overrun, carry out 5G network construction in a prudent and orderly manner, deepen the common construction and sharing of 5G networks, and continuously improve the coverage level of 5G networks in key transportation hubs, shopping centers, as well as parks, hospitals, colleges and universities and other key areas.

According to the forecast of China Academy of Information and Communication Research, the cumulative investment in China's 5G network construction will reach 1.2 trillion yuan by 2025, which will then lead to a cumulative related investment of more than 3.5 trillion yuan, directly create more than 3 million jobs, drive more than 8 trillion yuan of emerging consumption, and form a trillion-dollar market for 5G-related products and services.