

Joint Announcement on Telecommunications Supplier Diversity between the UK's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

1. The UK and Japan have a global strategic partnership and long history of collaboration on a wide range of digital issues. Today, the UK's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) reaffirm our commitment to extend and strengthen this relationship by issuing this joint announcement on Telecommunications Supplier Diversity. This announcement sets out the initiatives we will take forward to achieve this aim, working closely with industry and our international partners.
2. DCMS and MIC both recognise the importance of having secure and resilient telecommunications networks, as part of their critical national infrastructure. Telecommunications networks are the backbone of a digitised and data-driven economy, and, in line with the 2021 Prague Proposals on Telecommunications Supplier Diversity, it is vital that we are able to have confidence that the digital infrastructure that underpins these networks is secure and reliable. We believe that a diverse and competitive telecommunications vendor marketplace is crucial to our ability to have true confidence in this infrastructure.

UK-Japan Telecommunications Supply Chain Diversification Collaboration Framework

3. To deliver the commitment set out in this announcement, DCMS and MIC have established a joint framework to guide collaboration between our two nations on this important issue. This includes forming a UK-Japan Working Group on Telecommunications Supplier Diversity which will meet regularly to progress the activities within this framework.
4. Under this framework, we will share information on our respective policy approaches to promoting diversification as we seek to implement measures that will help to enable an environment that supports a more competitive and diverse global market for telecommunications equipment.
5. We will explore opportunities to cooperate on research and development initiatives, with a particular focus on seeking to support the work of industry partners in accelerating the development of interoperable equipment and open interfaces, such as Open RAN. This will include bringing together experts from industry, academia and government to share information, promoting collaboration between testing facilities in the UK and Japan, and identifying opportunities to launch joint R&D projects.

6. DCMS and MIC both also recognise the importance of ensuring that efforts to support greater diversity have a long-term focus. We will therefore cooperate on our respective priorities for future communications technologies, looking at 5G and beyond, and will seek to identify collaborative opportunities to share information and facilitate joint efforts between experts from industry and academia to support the development of technologies such as 6G.
7. We are clear that the process of promoting a more diverse supply market for telecommunications equipment must be industry-led. In taking the initiatives within this framework forward, we will take efforts to facilitate opportunities for UK and Japanese telecommunications companies to collaborate in support of greater diversity of suppliers.
8. We further recognise that the lack of diversity of suppliers in the telecommunications equipment market is a global issue that will require a collaborative and concerted approach from a wide range of international stakeholders. We therefore reaffirm our joint commitment to working with a wide range of international partners to achieve our ambition for an open, diverse and competitive global telecommunications equipment supply market.