

**Letter of Intent**  
**for Cooperation in Communication technologies**  
**between**  
**the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications**  
**of Japan**  
**and**  
**the Ministry of Education and Research**  
**of the Federal Republic of Germany**

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan (MIC) and the Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMBF), hereinafter jointly referred to as “Sides” or singular as “Side”, in line with their mutual interest, intend to expand their bilateral relations and cooperation in the field of future communication technologies based on the friendly relationship as G7 countries and like-minded partners, which exist between the two countries.

The two Sides’ countries are aware of the benefits of mutual cooperation in the field of future communication technologies and desire to support and promote their technical and scientific cooperation in the field of Beyond 5G/6G research and development (R&D) with the aim to create collaborative relationships between universities, institutes, research centers and the private sectors of both countries in the field of future communication technologies.

MIC established the first Beyond 5G R&D fund in March 2021 at the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT) to develop elemental technologies. In March 2023, MIC launched the second fund to primarily support R&D projects aiming to realize social implementation and industrialization.

The Federal Government of Germany is pursuing its research program on communication systems, which was launched in June 2021 by BMBF. The program aims to increase the digital and technological sovereignty, boosting the competitiveness of Germany’s economy, and promoting the manifold applications of 6G and other communication technologies in all areas of society, business and industry. BMBF works in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV),

especially in the context of national digitization strategies and the Japan-Germany ICT Policy Dialogue.

The Sides thus share the intention to take necessary actions in the following areas:

- R&D on Beyond 5G/6G and future communication technologies, considering them as key technologies worldwide to achieve the full potential of Industry 4.0 as well as to realize a hyperconnected Society 5.0.
- Harmonization and alignment of R&D activities with the aim of implementing common societal goals in technology development. This is the basis for flexible, scalable, interoperable and trustworthy infrastructures, which foster a sustainable future society and open innovation ecosystems.
- R&D collaborative projects with participation of academic partners, research institutes, telecommunication industry, network providers, industrial partners, SMEs and other relevant stakeholders from Japan and Germany.
- Coordinated standardization activities towards global standards for future communication technologies like Beyond 5G/6G based on common values and coordinated R&D efforts taking into account ongoing activities and developments in the private sector and international standardization organizations.
- Exchange of excellent scientists (PhD & post-docs) between academic institutions, research institutes and industry partners participating in the Beyond 5G/6G program in Japan and corresponding partners of the German 6G-Initiative.
- Joint workshops and scientific exchange supported by the Japanese Beyond 5G/6G program and corresponding partners of the German 6G Platform.

The Sides share the view that it is indispensable for them to promote international cooperation in R&D, coordination and standardization activities. They intend to work collaboratively towards enhancing this bilateral cooperation.

This Letter of Intent was signed in Tokyo, Japan in duplicate in the English language only.

**For the Ministry of Internal Affairs and  
Communications of Japan**

**MATSUMOTO Takeaki**

**Minister for Internal Affairs and  
Communications**

**For the Ministry of Education and Research  
of the Federal Republic of Germany**

**Bettina Stark-Watzinger**

**Minister for Education and Research**