

Communications Infrastructure and Services Programme

World-leading communications infrastructure underpins the UK's aim of an open digital economy. Communication networks are the lifeblood of the UK's digital applications and services, and a key component will be incentivising investment and innovation. techUK's Communications Infrastructure Programme brings together FTSE 100 companies and SMEs from across the sector - fixed, wireless, mobile, satellite operators, equipment suppliers - to advocate a connected future for all.

Visit the Communications Infrastructure and Services hub on our website.

2021 Achievements

Following an election in early 2021, our <u>Communications Infrastructure and Services Council</u> set the strategic direction for the whole Programme, and through its diverse membership, the Council has helped establish techUK as the home of telecoms policy in the UK.

The Programme delivered significant value for its members and the wider telecoms ecosystem through:

Building networks

The Communications Infrastructure and Services (CIS) Programme organised a diverse event series, culminating in a flagship telecoms summit <u>Our Network Future</u> in October 2021, at which Minister for State Julia Lopez MP announced the <u>Wireless Infrastructure Strategy</u>. Other events, webinars and workshops explored topics such as <u>Quantum Communications</u>; <u>Agri-tech and telecoms</u>; the role of <u>cloud</u> in telco infrastructure; plus market engagement briefings with <u>NHS Digital</u>, <u>CCS</u>, and <u>DCMS</u>. Our <u>Advanced Communications Services Working Group</u> held a series of workshops on Private Networks, examining different deployment scenarios from ports, healthcare, and manufacturing, and the security considerations for these advanced networks in enterprise.

Informing opinion and delivering thought leadership

Our <u>#DiversifyingTelecoms</u> campaign explored the innovation in <u>private networks</u>, future demand for <u>connectivity</u>, and joined forces with <u>ETNO</u> for a UK/EU deep dive into telecoms security. <u>Diversifying Telecoms week</u> shone a spotlight on the opinions and insight from across techUK membership, and the wider sector, and included a <u>podcast with the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP</u>, Chair of the Science and Technology Committee. techUK's Licence-exempt Shared Spectrum Working Group <u>published a paper</u> that captured industry views on the pros and cons of licence-exemption in the 6 GHz frequency range – which regulator Ofcom is set to explore in 2022.

Targeted engagement

The Programme maintained its effective relationships with a range of stakeholders in government and the regulator, engaging on a range of topics and policy including the <u>Telecoms Security Act</u>, Code reform, net neutrality and the Wireless Infrastructure Strategy. techUK submitted a 'Lessons Learned' report to DCMS on 5G Testbeds and Trials, reflecting member experiences with the Programme. We also launched the <u>Telecoms Infrastructure and Deployment Working Group</u>, and through the APPG for Broadband and Digital Communication held an inquiry <u>into reforming the ECC</u> to help boost the rollout of fibre networks across the UK.

2022 Objectives

The Programme will continue to advocate for a connected future for all, using its position as the home of telecoms policy in the UK to raise the profile of members and spotlight innovation breakthroughs in the sector.

Resilience, security and network innovation

We will continue to explore the market opportunity for members in diversifying the telecoms supply chain, diving into network innovation, <u>future networks</u>, sustainability, international engagement as well as informing members as the Telecoms Security Act commences.

Deployment

We will smooth the path to deployment of the UK's telecoms infrastructure, ensuring the right environment to invest and innovate is created for members, engage and respond to the ECC reform legislation and examine the technological impact of network convergence.

Demand

Our Private Networks paper, due for publication in Spring 2022, will help drive up demand and adoption of advanced connectivity solutions for enterprise and the private sector, and we will continue to engage with industries and Smart Communities set to benefit from our members' innovation breakthroughs. We will help the UK align its vision as a tech and science superpower with the need for advanced telecoms networks.