Orange Polska and Ericsson launched a 5G test network in Warsaw. It offers download speed close to 900 Mbps

These are the first such big 5G trials in Poland, testing the latest technology in urban conditions. Orange and Ericsson put on air 9 sites in the Warsaw district of Ochota and Powiśle. Customers, who will be able to test Orange Neva Jet 5G smartphones, will be invited to take part in the tests.

"Today access to a fast network is what access to roads and electricity used to be" - said Marek Zagórski, Minister of Digital Affairs. "For Poland, the fifth generation network is a chance for rapid development of the economy. We want to do everything to let Polish companies benefit from it" - he added.

"Today we are one step closer to launching the Polish fifth generation mobile network. We are technologically ready for this challenge. After more than a year of trials in laboratories and in the field, we have launched a network operating in the capital city. We will invite our customers to those tests, providing them with new 5G smartphones manufactured especially for Orange" - said Jean-François Fallacher, CEO of Orange Polska.

"Ericsson has been leading the worldwide 5G rollout and now we bring the same technology to the heart of Warsaw. Our collaboration with Orange Polska together with our ongoing investment across Poland contributes to a wave of 5G innovation making Poland one of the leading nations for 5G in Europe. - said Martin Mellor, Head of Ericsson Poland

Ericsson and Orange Polska are conducting tests to find optimal solutions from the point of view of network management and meeting the needs of customers. The devices constituting the test network operate on the basis of the 80 MHz channel in the 3.4 - 3.6 GHz band, made available by the Office of Electronic Communications. This band is ultimately planned for the launch of the 5G network in Poland. The tests will use the currently available 5G devices, including more than 100 smartphones and routers.

The sites have been located in such a way that they create a consistent range and allow movement between them without interrupting the connection with 5G. The applied solutions allow for data transmission via 5G technology integrated with the backbone fibre optic network of Orange. All the tested sites are connected to the network via an optical link with 10 Gbps throughput, i.e. ten times faster than the standard Orange Polska's 4G connection. This allows for data to be downloaded at speeds up to 1 Gbps.

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Orange is the first operator in Poland to conduct 5G tests outside a laboratory. It is the only one to use the 3.4 - 3.8 GHz and 26 - 28 GHz bands for this purpose. Tests conducted with all leading suppliers have allowed the operator to gain the experience needed to deploy a 5G network. They were implemented as part of the Orange Polska 5G Strategy announced in spring 2018. It envisages that the first commercial roll-outs will take place in the years 2020 - 2021, after the operator acquires the necessary 5G frequencies for the construction of the network.

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