

Key problems in relation to the 5G network rollout

Manfred Ruttner
A1 Telekom Austria AG

The introduction of 5G marks a shift in mobile communications technology. It will permit previously unimaginable transmission speeds, significantly reduce latency and allow large numbers of devices to connect to the network at the same time. This will all lead to undreamt of possibilities. Such a major technological advance offers an abundance of opportunities and opens up entirely new horizons, but there are also many people who are afraid of it. This is despite the fact that fifth generation mobile technology (5G) is just an evolutionary step that will seamlessly integrate itself into existing technology rather than revolutionizing it.

The implementation of 5G technology has not only prompted new questions about mobile communications and health, it is also generating an increased level of public discussion again. Due to the rapid spread of news via social media but in many cases also because of a lack of information, the public debate is taking on dimensions that have not been seen quite for some time.

This public mood is having a direct impact on the rollout and the image of the technology. In addition, there are a number of new technical aspects to be considered such as m-MIMO and beamforming as well as the increased use of small cells in future. These factors all raise issues in connection with the roll-out that can lead to delays.