UK5G – SME and Regional Engagement Working Group (SME & Regions WG)
Terms of Reference:

<u>Background:</u>

If the UK is to increase economic competitiveness and improve the delivery of social services post Covid-19 and Brexit there needs to be a step change in digital connectivity across the country. 5G technologies will be a vital part of this and it is essential that we accelerate the uptake from small and medium size enterprises (SMEs). These companies make up approximately 99% of all UK businesses, and 52% of UK business turnover. However, the challenge is how to achieve meaningful engagement with this very widespread and disparate community.

Fortuitously, the UK already has some strong industry-led networks such as regional Combined Authorities, and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), which exist to stimulate and support business-led R&D and investment across England and similar, analogous networks in the nations of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Many of the members of UK5G - Advisory Board members, delivery partners (KTN, Cambridge Wireless), associate partners (Catapults) - have excellent existing relationships with these regional networks The UK5G Regions and SME Working Group aims to leverage these relationships to share the benefits of 5G with SMEs and other local businesses, with particular attention as to how to best align with regional strengths and challenges already identified in Local Industrial Strategies.

Our objective is to facilitate links with organisations at a regional level with existing national 5G initiatives to ensure that knowledge is disseminated as widely as possible to create maximum and social and economic benefit.

<u>Purpose of the Working Group:</u>

The purpose of the working group (WG) will be to engage with a prioritised list of regional organisations across the UK and arrange information and networking events with them for the benefit of helping SMEs (and other local businesses) to understand how early adoption of 5G can accelerate improvements to digital connectivity 5G and which organisations/government initiatives might be of help to them.

<u>Objectives:</u>

- Organise up to 6 events/podcasts per year to reach SMEs in vertical sectors relevant to regional industrial/social strategies who may be interested in understanding how 5G fits into the wider digital infrastructure and how they can become early adopters.

- Advise regional organisations bodies across the UK to develop a viable and achievable plan for encouraging SME and other business adoption of 5G technologies. This advice may take the form of strategic thinking integrated with regions' own economic strategies which may contribute towards UK-wide policy in the longer term.

- Deliver feedback (via UK5G AG biyearly meetings, Whatsapp group) from discussions with regional bodies back into UK5G for the purpose of helping it to inform DCMS policy on the roll-out and adoption of 5G in the UK.

Structure of the WG:

As with other UK5G working groups, the LEP WG will have a Chair, taken from the UK5G Advisory Group. There will also be a Deputy Chair to be recruited from the wider UK5G registered membership list.

The working group will be made up of between 15-25 interested and relevant individuals, including some from UK5G's Advisory Group (AG).

Membership selection criteria:

It is imperative that the WG gets an optimal, wide-ranging selection of members for the WG. We envisage that members will have a range of experience, skills and insight derived both from the supply (telecoms) and demand (potential customers of 5G) side of industry.

In addition, required capabilities might also include:

- Senior responsibility within/across one or more regional organisations
- Expertise in 5G technologies
- Relevant businesses that might provide insight into the needs of SME generally
- Deep sector knowledge for specific industries
- Links to local, relevant research bases

Process:

1. Once agreed, this document will be posted up on WG's page on www.uk5g.org and registered users will be invited to apply to sit on the WG.
2. The Chair, in conjunction with UK5G and interested AG members, will choose a list of relevant applicants
3. WGs will be organised routinely, at the discretion of the Chair and Deputy Chair
4. A rolling 1 - 2 year plan will be maintained by the WG which will be passed on to the Chair of the Advisory Group.
5. The progress of the WG will be reviewed twice-yearly at the UK5G Advisory Group meetings (normally July, January)
6. DCMS will allocate a member of their 5G delivery team as a regular observer to the WG