Euskaltel coordinates a consortium of 13 companies and operates the network that enables the first real 5G pilots (stand alone) in the Basque Country

- **In addition to managing the consortium of companies, Euskaltel will operate the network enabled for the deployment of real 5G pilots during the next 30 months in areas such as mobility, industry, energy and cybersecurity, among others.**
- **"Euskadi 5G" has the decisive support of the Basque Government (Department of Economic Development and Infrastructures) in an initiative considered key in promoting its strategic plan for Euskadi.**
- **This experience will place the Basque Country and its business environment and technology centres among the most advanced regions in the development of this new technology.**
- **With an investment of €7.1 million, the project has been approved and is subsidized by the state public entity Red.es with €2.2 million and co-financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), in charge of the Pluri-regional Operational Program of Spain (POPE).**

September 17, 2020. Euskaltel is the manager and coordinator of the "Euskadi 5G" project, which has been awarded the aid program of the Spanish Government for the development and implementation of the new technology. This is the first real 5G pilot project in the Basque Country and was born from the commitment to promote innovation and industrial transformation of the main companies and technology centres in the Basque Country.

Within the framework of the "Euskadi 5G" project, a 5G infrastructure pilot is created with network deployment for a virtual mobile operator, where Euskaltel provides the central elements of network management (CORE) and, on the other hand, its current host provider (Orange), the radio access part. This Euskaltel technology will make it possible to provide real 5G services to Euskaltel Group customers in the future.

With this pilot, Euskaltel will have the technologies that 5G enables (ultra-fast broadband, low latency, connection of millions of devices). In the first phase in "Non Stand Alone" technology, which is the initial 5G technology on which the commercial deployments announced in the market are based. And in the second phase and fundamental core of the project, in "Stand Alone" technology, or real 5G, which is the technology of the future of 5G, and which provides all its capabilities and functional development.

Additionally, the focus will be on the creation of computing centres on the edge (mobile edge computing) which, together with the rest of 5G technologies, are the key enablers of this technological universe with a multitude of applications in industrial and energy fields, mobility, etc., for the improvement and evolution of current processes and for the incorporation of new services and functionalities that will improve the competitiveness of companies.

Euskaltel provider of 5G technology for homes and companies

This pilot will allow Euskaltel to be positioned as a provider of real 5G technology in both the residential and business segments and will facilitate future competitive improvement for the industrial fabric of the Basque Country.

Among the use cases to be developed in the project is the fixed wireless connectivity application that, taking advantage of 5G technological advantages, allows obtaining ultra-broadband speeds without using fibre access. This type of access allows covering less dense environments such as rural areas more effectively, breaking the technological gap that may exist.

This joint initiative consists, on the one hand, of deploying and enabling, over the next 30 months, a 5G network in the three Technology Parks of the Basque Country (Gipuzkoa, Bizkaia, Araba), for which 65% of the budget will be allocated. On the other hand, 9 use cases will be developed, which will complete the total investment. Specifically, these use cases are aimed at the pre-commercial development of products and services in the areas of mobility, energy, Industry, cybersecurity and Network services. For this, they will experiment with the latest generation 5G technology: Edge computing, Network slicing and Virtualization of the network and the capabilities that 5G develops in speed (20 times faster than 4G) will be tested.

Euskaltel has worked, together with the Basque Government and other companies and public and private organizations, in various initiatives with the intention of carrying out a project of these characteristics and which has finally resulted in the award of the "Euskadi 5G" project by the Network. is to the consortium.

The infrastructure that is built in this pilot arises as a driver for additional projects that can use it as a base in the future and, in this sense, the Basque Government's initiative for support programs for 5G projects should be highlighted.

Development of 5G technology in the Basque Country

The "5G Euskadi" project, which is part of the 2nd call of the Red.es program, was born from the reflection on the future development of 5G networks and their relevance for the social and economic development of the territory, applying this technology in the fields of mobility, energy, industry and cybersecurity. All approved projects meet the objectives of experimenting with the first deployments of 5G networks and the network management techniques that this technology enables and developing use cases with the involvement of all agents, including users.

The calls for 5G pilots, launched within the framework of the National 5G Plan and the National Plan for Smart Territories, seek to promote an early demand to experiment with the different potentialities of 5G and promote the development of ecosystems among operators, technology and solution providers and other agents involved.

This experience will place the Basque Country and its business environment and technology centres among the most advanced regions in the development of this new technology. In this way, when 5G reaches its technological and commercial maturity, it will be prepared for an adequate provision of services and will make the most of the opportunities of the new technology, fundamental in the digital transformation of society and the economy in the most advanced countries. for the next decade.

Basque Government support

The award of the state aid program to the "Euskadi 5G" project is undoubtedly the result of Euskaltel's previous work with the Basque Government and other companies and public and private organizations in various initiatives of this kind. And the infrastructure developed will be the potential driving force for additional projects that may make use of it in the future within the framework of the Basque Government's 5G project support programs.

To develop "Euskadi 5G", under the management of Euskaltel, a consortium of 13 partners has been formed from the ecosystem of telecommunications operators, network equipment providers, universities, research centres, public institutions and private companies: Euskaltel, R , Orange, MASMÓVIL Group, ZTE Spain, ZTE Managed Services, Gestamp, Ikusi (Velatia Group), CAF, Dbus (Donostia City Council), Datik (Irizar Group), CEIT and Vicomtech. These companies have also established collaboration agreements with Iberdrola, Basque Security Center (Basque Government), Tecnalia, University of the Basque Country and Tecnun University of Navarra.

The "Euskadi 5G" project, approved by Red.es, an entity of the Ministry of Economy and Business, will last 30 months, involves an investment of €7.1 million, for which Red.es grants a subsidy of €2.2 million and is co-financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), in charge of the Pluri-regional Operational Program of Spain (POPE).