

Building Singapore's capabilities in the healthcare, Industry 4.0-driven manufacturing, supply chain and logistics industries through 5G

Under IMDA's 5G Innovation Programme, three first-of-its-kind 5G use-cases awarded to transform the healthcare and Industry 4.0 sectors

Singapore – 27 November 2023: The Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) has partnered enterprises to develop innovative, first-of-its-kind 5G solutions across sectors such as healthcare, manufacturing, supply chain and logistics. IMDA is collaborating with National University Health System (NUHS), Republic Power, ST Engineering and DB Schenker as part of the next wave of transformative 5G use-cases.

2. These cutting-edge projects are part of IMDA's S\$30 million 5G Innovation Programme which was launched in 2021 to help accelerate the adoption and commercialisation of enterprise 5G solutions. Since its launch, 13 first-of-its-kind 5G solutions have been awarded transforming various sectors across Singapore.

3. In the healthcare sector, some of Singapore's healthcare tech innovators and organisations such as NUHS have leveraged 5G in Mixed Reality-based Holomedicine in operating theatres to enhance patient care, improve outcomes, and redefine the entire healthcare experience. Announced in 2022, this is **Asia Pacific's first indoor private Enterprise 5G mobile edge computing (MEC) for Mixed Reality and Holomedicine capabilities in health tech.**

4. IMDA has also partnered Republic Power to deploy 5G unmanned medical booths to support remote health screening and video consultations with enhanced user experience. This is **Asia's first 5G-enabled unmanned pre-screening and teleconsultation medical booth** ("Medbots") with state-of-the-art hygiene and safety system.

5. In Industry 4.0-driven manufacturing, supply chain and logistics sectors, IMDA has partnered ST Engineering and DB Schenker to enhance warehouse and manufacturing operations, quality control and customer experience. These include Singapore's first **5G-enabled Digital Twin for DB Schenker's warehouse and one of Singapore's first 5G-enabled collaborative robots for ST Engineering's 5G-Enabled Industry 4.0 Smart Factory.**

6. "As IMDA continues to architect Singapore's digital future, we want to build Singapore's capabilities in various sectors powered by emerging technologies such as 5G. We have partnered many forward-looking companies to truly tap and unlock the benefits of 5G across a wide range of sectors and we will continue to work closely with enterprises to help relook, reshape and transform our industries across Singapore", said **Dr Ong Chen Hui, Assistant Chief Executive, Biztech Group, IMDA.**

Annex: Details of the four projects

NUHS: **[Update]** Asia Pacific's first indoor private Enterprise 5G mobile edge computing (MEC) for Mixed Reality and Holomedicine capabilities in health tech

1. The use of Mixed Reality technology (MR) in healthcare is an up-and-coming area of development. Coined as Holomedicine, this technology makes use of holographic displays and images to enhance and augment healthcare delivery. IMDA is partnering NUHS, Microsoft, Singtel and apoQlar GmbH, a developer of medical mixed reality platform, to develop new 5G-enabled Holomedicine capabilities that leverage advanced remote rendering capabilities on MR devices such as Microsoft's HoloLens 2.

2. The use of 5G-enabled Holomedicine has helped surgeons to better visualise a patient's organs in high-resolution 3D render without any disruption or lag. Doctors in NUHS have been using the technology to streamline the planning of surgical operations, improve patient education and safety, and create a more intuitive and immersive environment for surgical training and research with 5G. Beyond the operating theatres, capabilities such as enhanced visualization of the patient's veins during blood taking procedures, advanced point-of-care ultrasound imaging capabilities, and patient education and counselling have been made possible with Mixed Reality devices and a secured high-speed data network. **The NUHS indoor private 5G Enterprise and MEC Network has been deployed in ten Operating Theatres since August 2023, and three inpatient wards in November 2023.**

3. **Dr Gao Yujia, Assistant Group Chief Technology Officer and Director for Holomedicine Program at NUHS** said: "Holomedicine technology relies heavily on data, which can pose challenges in bandwidth management. Our proactive strategy involves integrating our Holomedicine devices with 5G. This alignment has been instrumental in significantly enhancing transmission speed and real-time data processing, as we work towards unlocking the full potential of this groundbreaking technology. This will empower us to strengthen healthcare delivery, research, and education."

DB Schenker: **[New]** Singapore's first 5G-enabled Digital Twin for warehousing

4. Together with home-grown Extended Reality company HiverLab, DB Schenker will develop a 5G-enabled Digital Twin of its Red Lion warehouse in Singapore. The Digital Twin allows both the company's internal stakeholders and consumers to visualise and inspect the status of warehouse assets via their mobile devices and PCs. With this, DB Schenker will optimise its warehouse operations and reduce the turnaround time on customer queries such as storage space requests.

ST Engineering: [New] One of Singapore's first 5G enabled collaborative robots for Smart Factory

5. ST Engineering's 5G-Enabled, Industry 4.0 Smart Factory looks to increase productivity and efficiency across our precision manufacturing processes through the automation of time-consuming manual work and through the deployment of advanced robotics and IOT solutions.

6. 5G-enabled collaborative robots (or cobots) equipped with robotic arms ensure correct components are selected and transported to the next location without human intervention - improving workplace efficiency and safety. 5G supported Video analytics and IOT devices will enhance speed and accuracy of quality inspections and stock taking; and new tools such as 5G Augmented Reality Glasses are also being deployed, enabling new collaboration and remote assistance possibilities.

Republic Power: [New] Asia's first 5G-enabled unmanned pre-screening and teleconsultation medical booth ("Medbots") with state-of-the-art hygiene and safety system

7. Republic Power's 5G-enabled unmanned pre-screening and teleconsultation medical booth incorporating accredited medical devices will enable medical clinics to provide off-site and remote health screening and patient care, reducing congestion and wait time at clinics. The unmanned booth will encourage Singaporeans to go for basic medical screening by offering them more accessibility to discreet health screening channels (Hospital Without Walls) to help to reduce the overall travel time and cost.

8. To ensure peace of mind and enhanced user experience, the booths will be equipped with 5G-enabled state-of-the-art hygiene and safety IOT devices and AI system to ensure safety and cleanliness. Such unmanned medical booths can be easily deployed and used for other medical purposes such as health and infectious disease screening for travelers and foreign workers at airports and dormitories etc.

The first-ever Holomedicine 5G Healthcare Summit, hosted in Singapore

9. IMDA co-organised the first-ever Holomedicine and 5G healthcare summit with the Holomedicine Association, put together with NUHS and GSMA APAC 5G Industry Community. This summit provides a platform not only to showcase the latest development in extended reality technologies, but also for participants to learn from industry leaders on how they are leveraging on 5G technology; and how some of these lessons can be applied to the healthcare sector.

About Infocomm Media Development Authority

The Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) leads Singapore's digital transformation by developing a vibrant digital economy and an inclusive digital society. As Architects of Singapore's Digital Future, we foster growth in Infocomm Technology and Media sectors in concert with progressive regulations, harnessing frontier technologies, and developing local talent and digital infrastructure ecosystems to establish Singapore as a digital metropolis.

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