

# China V. America: Global Battle for 5G Dominance



The United States and China are in a race to develop fifth-generation (5G) cellular wireless technology, which could determine who controls mobile telecommunications in the future, and experts and lawmakers warn the U.S. could lose unless the Trump administration does something fast.

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The Chinese have moved fast to dominate the 5G market. Beijing has poured billions of dollars into developing 5g technology, and since 5G

relies on miles of fiber optic networks that cost tens of billions of dollars to install and billions more to operate, China has been offering to build those networks for cheap, and countries all over the world have been signing up.

Experts say China's headstart could determine how 5G is developed and accessed by the rest of the world.

"If you're first out of the gate with technology like this, if you're the first mover, then you have a way of setting the standards that other countries are going to use," said Hudson Institute Senior Fellow Arthur Herman in a phone interview with Breitbart News on Monday.

"If all the countries in your corner of Southeast Asia, or your corner of Africa, are using Huawei for their 5G networks, it's more likely than not that your carrier is going to say, 'You know what, we need to have Huawei, too,'" he said. "So even if you don't set the standards in a formal sense, you set the standards in a practical sense."

So far, 64 countries have an agreement or have announced testing of 5G gear made by Chinese tech giant Huawei, including some of the U.S.'s closest allies: Britain, Germany, and Japan.

China's spending on building 5G since 2015 has exceeded the U.S. by \$24 billion, according to recent Deloitte study. Last year, Huawei had 22 percent of the global market share for 5G equipment, and another Chinese company, ZTE, had ten percent, according to the research firm IHS Market Ltd. Finnish company Nokia has 13 percent and Swedish company Ericsson has 11 percent.

China's dominance could mean the U.S. may also have to use Chinese systems, which experts say has huge security risks. For one, U.S. troops and intelligence officials serving on bases overseas would likely have to transmit information over Chinese networks.

"Although the really sensitive stuff and highly classified stuff will continue to be carried on separate networks, the point is a lot of the ordinary traffic that they do, a lot of the give and take will all take place on wireless networks," Herman said.

He said the worst case scenario would be Trojan horse-type applications built into the technology that would allow China to intrude, listen in, or steal data flowing through the networks.

He said if the Chinese are able to interrupt or take command of U.S. military vehicles relying on those networks, “that’s a nightmare waiting to happen, and that’s a nightmare no one wants to live through.”

Rivada Networks CEO Declan Ganley warned at a November 13 Hudson Institute event, “Make no mistake. Whoever controls, whoever architects these 5G networks [and] deploys those networks has got an advantage in the cyber domain.”

“It’s likely that the first 10 minutes of the next great war will be fought first in the cyber domain. That’s how important this is,” he added.

China is not just moving in 5G. It has made it a goal to dominate the markets for other advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, and quantum computing as part of its “Made in China 2025” plan, and experts worry China could gain an advantage in those technologies too.

“What we’re talking about in that new technology is national security and who sets the stage, who sets the standards going forward,” retired Navy Adm. Gary Roughead, co-chairman of National Defense Strategy Commission, said at a November 27 Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

“I do think that one could make the case that what we’re going through right now can in the long run be as impactful as what happened to us on 9/11. It’s just happening in slower motion.”

Some experts and lawmakers fear the Trump administration has no plan to stop Chinese dominance in 5G.

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