

15 December 2022  
Manila, Philippines

The United States government thru the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) has issued its approval today for media release and public disclosure its approval of a grant in favor of NOW Telecom Company, Inc., an associate of NOW Corporation, to fund Technical Assistance (“TA”) for the Development of Wireless Telephony Network for the Philippines Using 5G Technology to advance critical digital infrastructure projects in the Philippines. This initiative is in collaboration with global 5G Tech Leader Nokia of America and a global technology and research innovator, Nokia Bell Labs, as initial step to the partnership with the U.S. Government as announced by VP Kamala Harris during her visit.

The TA is divided into three components: (1) the design of a national 5G wireless network; (2) the design and planning of a nationwide broadband network, (3) the design and implementation of a pilot 5G network in Metro Manila. This will support NOW Telecom’s development and implementation of a mobile and fixed wireless network utilizing 5G technology.

The TA will be undertaken by Bell Labs Consulting represented by Nokia of America Corporation (“Nokia Americas”) as the prime contractor, a company registered in the U.S. that is engaged in research and scientific development in the telecommunications sector. The 5G Pilot Launch will use network and radio equipment, core network, and software developed and supplied by Nokia Americas and its subsidiaries.

The objective of the TA and 5G Pilot Launch is to support NOW Telecom’s plan to launch a fifth-generation (“5G”) Stand-alone (“SA”) Network in the Philippines that will contribute to the overall improvement of broadband connectivity in the country and increase competition in the Philippine market.

The TA and pilot launch of a 5G network in the Philippines through NOW Telecom will include a development plan and execution of a pilot 5G Stand-Alone Network and the design of a completely “Clean” and “Secure” Stand-alone 5G Network. The 5G Network Plan will include among other technical components, the deployment strategy and definition of infrastructure requirements for the network transmission backbone for both domestic and international connectivity that will be responsive to existing and projected countrywide traffic volume and routes/destinations in the Philippines.