

Ripple effect is expected by "5G" launch

2019 is called the year of "5G" launch. "5G" is the next-generation mobile telecommunication platform whose commercial service is expected to start in the US and South Korea this year. In Japan, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications has started to accept the applications to establish "5G" base stations from Jan 24. Spread of "5G" is expected to create business opportunities in many fields. Not only companies related to communication but also variety of industries is expected to enjoy the ripple effect of "5G". It is important to watch how companies will make use of these opportunities.

Point 1

"5G" characteristics: high-speed broadband, low latency and multiple simultaneous connectivity

Automobile industry is expected to benefit the most

- Characteristics of 5G are high-speed broadband, low latency and multiple simultaneous connectivity. It aims for maximum of 100x higher speed and broader bandwidth than 4G. The services using characteristics of "5G" are (1) high-speed broadband for data transmission used for images of high-definition 8K and security camera, (2) low latency for autonomous car, remote medical system and drone and (3) multiple simultaneous connectivity for IoT (Internet of Things).
- Automobile industry is expected to benefit the most. An autonomous car is remote-controlled by sending the mass information collected via its cameras and radars to the cloud and analyzed by AI on real-time. It cannot work without characteristics of "5G" that are high-speed broadband and low latency. Accordingly we expect that the spread of "5G" would accelerate the development of autonomous cars.

Point 2

Large impacts on communication equipment and terminals

"5G" is expected to be the driver of increasing semiconductor demand

- "5G" widely impacts communication related business on communication equipment and terminals. With the start of commercial service of "5G" in the US and South Korea, more than 30 kinds of "5G" smartphone is expected to be sold worldwide. Also, use of glass and resin which is able to transmit radio wave for terminals is likely to increase. It is expected to be a business opportunity for companies manufacturing related materials.
- "5G" is also expected to be the driver for recovery of semiconductor demand, which has dramatically decreased since last October. As "5G" spreads, we expect semiconductor demand would increase due to investment in data centers as "5G" requires high-speed exchange of broadband data.



Outlook

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■ As the expectation for ripple effect by "5G" is high, Tokyo Electron announced their plan to spend more than JPY 100bn per year for the next 10 years on R&D. Also, Murata Manufacturing announced that they will issue JPY 100bn worth of straight bond in order to manufacture electrical appliances for "5G". Companies seem to start preparing for launching "5G" actively. However, the services utilizing "5G" are still at a developing stage. How companies can seize business opportunities by being ahead of development collaborating across the nation and industries are to be assessed.

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