

Bell, Telus give 5G contracts to Europeans, Huawei shut out

June 3 2020, by Rob Gillies



In this May 18, 2020, file photo, a man wearing a face mask to protect against the coronavirus walks past a Huawei retail store in Beijing. One of China's biggest tech companies has criticized the Trump administration for "politicizing business" after it slapped export sanctions on 33 more Chinese enterprises and government entities. The announcement expanded a U.S. campaign against Chinese companies Washington says might be security threats or involved in human rights abuses. Beijing criticized curbs imposed earlier on tech giant Huawei and other Chinese companies but has yet to say whether it will retaliate.

(AP Photo/Ng Han Guan, File)

Two of Canada's three major telecommunication companies announced Tuesday they've decided not to use Chinese tech giant Huawei for their next-generation 5G wireless network.

Bell Canada announced that Sweden-based Ericsson will be its supplier and Telus Corp. later announced that it had also selected Ericsson and Nokia. Rogers already has a longstanding partnership with Ericsson.

Canada and its [security agencies](#) have been studying whether to use equipment from Huawei as phone carriers prepare to roll out fifth-generation technology. 5G is designed to support a vast expansion of networks to facilitate medical devices, self-driving cars and other technology.

Huawei is the world's biggest supplier of network gear used by phone and internet companies, but has long been seen as a front for spying by China's military and its highly skilled security services.

The U.S. has urged Canada to exclude Huawei equipment from their next-generation wireless networks as they claim Huawei is legally beholden to the Chinese regime. The United States and Australia have banned Huawei, citing concerns it is an organ of Chinese military intelligence—a charge the company denies.

"We look forward to the [federal government](#) completing its 5G review and making an evidence-based decision about Huawei's role in helping build Canada's next-generation wireless networks," Huawei spokesman Alykhan Velshi said in an email.

The Canadian government is studying the use of Huawei as Canada and China are locked in a political dispute. China's imprisonment of Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor is widely seen as retaliation for the arrest in Canada of Huawei senior executive Meng Wanzhou on a U.S. extradition warrant. A Canadian judge ruled last week the U.S. extradition case against a senior Huawei executive can proceed to the next stage.



CEO of Swedish telecom giant Ericsson, Borje Ekholm talks to the media after presenting the company's 2019 full year result at the Ericsson headquarters in Stockholm, Sweden, on Friday Jan. 24, 2020. (Fredrik Sandberg / TT via AP)

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Citation: Bell, Telus give 5G contracts to Europeans, Huawei shut out (2020, June 3) retrieved 10 May 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2020-06-bell-telus-5g-europeans-huawei.html>

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